



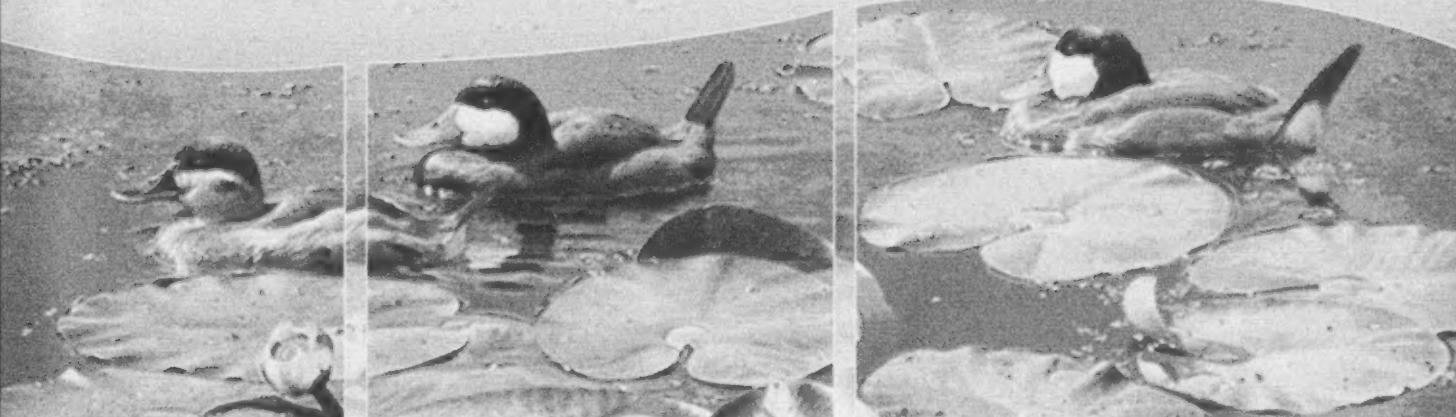
Environment  
Canada      Environnement  
Canada

# Migratory Birds Regulations in Canada

July 2009

Canadian Wildlife Service  
Waterfowl Committee

CWS Migratory Birds Regulatory Report Number 27



Canada

For more information on wildlife and the Canadian Wildlife Service (CWS), please visit the following Web sites:

**National CWS Web site:** [www.cws-scf.ec.gc.ca](http://www.cws-scf.ec.gc.ca)

**Regional CWS Web sites:**

Atlantic Region: [www.ns.ec.gc.ca/wildlife/index.html](http://www.ns.ec.gc.ca/wildlife/index.html)

Quebec Region: [www.qc.ec.gc.ca/faune/faune.html](http://www.qc.ec.gc.ca/faune/faune.html)

Ontario Region: [www.on.ec.gc.ca/wildlife/intro.html](http://www.on.ec.gc.ca/wildlife/intro.html)

**Other regions on Environment Canada's nature sites:**

Prairie and Northern Region: [www.mb.ec.gc.ca/nature/index.en.html](http://www.mb.ec.gc.ca/nature/index.en.html)

Pacific and Yukon Region: [www.pyr.ec.gc.ca/EN/Wildlife/index.shtml](http://www.pyr.ec.gc.ca/EN/Wildlife/index.shtml)

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**HELPFUL TIP:**

Canadians may be exposed to avian-borne viruses when bird-watching, hunting or handling migratory birds and other wild game. Environment Canada recommends the following Web site, maintained by the Public Health Agency of Canada, for information on minimizing the risk of exposure.

<http://www.phac-aspc.gc.ca/id-mi/index-eng.php> (English)

<http://www.phac-aspc.gc.ca/id-mi/index-fra.php> (French)

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**Cover Art:**

The Canadian Wildlife Habitat Conservation Stamp featuring Ruddy Ducks, entitled "Lily Pond – Ruddy Ducks" is by Canadian wildlife artist Patricia Pépin, Québec.

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# **Migratory Birds Regulations in Canada**

**July 2009**

**Canadian Wildlife Service Waterfowl Committee**

**CWS Migratory Birds Regulatory Report Number 27**

**Editors:**

This report was prepared by the Canadian Wildlife Service Waterfowl Committee, and edited by Renée Bergeron and Kathryn M. Dickson of the National Office of the Canadian Wildlife Service.

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**Comments:**

Comments regarding this report, the regulation-setting process or other concerns relating to national migratory game birds should be sent to: Director General, Canadian Wildlife Service, Environment Canada, Ottawa, ON K1A 0H3.

Region-specific comments should be sent to the appropriate Regional Director, Canadian Wildlife Service, Environmental Conservation Service, at the following addresses:

Atlantic Region: 17 Waterfowl Lane, P.O. Box 6227, Sackville, NB E4L 1G6.

Quebec Region: 1141 route de l'Église, P.O. Box 10100, Sainte-Foy, QC G1V 4H5.

Ontario Region: 4905 Dufferin Street, Downsview, ON M3H 5T4.

Prairie & Northern Region: Twin Atria No. #2, 4999-98 Avenue, Edmonton, AB T6B 2X3.

Pacific & Yukon Region: 5421 Robertson Road, R.R. #1, Delta, BC V4K 3N2.

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<http://www.cws-scf.ec.gc.ca/mbc-com/default.asp?lang=En&n=62F2AA13>

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## Background

Canadian hunting regulations for migratory game birds are reviewed annually by Environment Canada, with input from the provinces and territories and a range of other stakeholders. As part of this process, the Canadian Wildlife Service (CWS) of Environment Canada produces three reports each year. The November report, *Population Status of Migratory Game Birds in Canada*, contains population and other biological information on migratory game birds and provides the scientific basis for management. The December report, *Proposals to Amend the Canadian Migratory Birds Regulations*, outlines the proposed changes to the annual hunting regulations, as well as other proposed amendments to the *Migratory Birds Regulations*. Proposals for hunting regulations are developed in accordance with the *Objectives and Guidelines for the Establishment of National Regulations for Migratory Game Bird Hunting* (Appendix B of the December Report). These two reports are distributed to organizations and individuals with an interest in migratory game bird conservation, to provide an opportunity for input to the development of hunting regulations in this country. The third report, *Migratory Birds Regulations in Canada*, issued in July, summarizes the hunting regulations for the upcoming hunting season.

The process of developing regulations in Canada requires that any changes be made in the form of final proposals by early March of each year. That means that regulations must be set without the benefit of knowledge of the breeding conditions or production forecasts for the coming year. This does not usually present difficulties because the hunting regulations are based on trends over several years. However, in some cases, the results from recent harvest surveys or breeding population surveys conducted in May and June will indicate that changes are needed in the national approach to ensure the conservation of migratory game birds. In such cases the Minister may, where he has reasonable cause to believe that it is necessary for conservation purposes, vary any hunting period or quota set out in these Regulations. The Canadian Wildlife Service issues a bulletin updating the regulations.

## Annual Schedule for the Development of Hunting Regulations

The annual schedule is based on the requirement that annual hunting regulations be made into law by early June of each year:

- December – The November report, containing biological information describing the status of Canada's migratory game birds, is posted on the web and distributed to organizations and individuals with an interest in migratory game bird conservation.
- November to early December – In collaboration with provincial and territorial jurisdictions, CWS develops proposals for hunting regulations (with justifications) for the upcoming year, as well as any other information that should be included in the December report, including advance notice on items for future years.
- January – The December report containing the regulation proposals for the upcoming hunting season is posted on the web and distributed to organizations and individuals with an interest in migratory bird game bird conservation. This report allows for public, inter-regional and international consultation
- End of February – End of the consultation period on hunting regulation proposals.
- Early March – Final proposals, as well as the final text of the regulations and regulation summaries are developed.
- April through May – CWS prepares legal documents and obtains approvals of the regulatory proposals.
- Early June – Hunting regulations become law.
- August – The July report, containing the hunting regulations for the coming season and the hunting regulations summaries is posted on the web and distributed to organizations and individuals interested in migratory bird conservation.
- End of July or early August – Hunting regulations summaries are available at Canada Post outlets and on the Environment Canada Web site.
- End of August – CWS makes regulation consolidations available to CWS Regions.

### Note to American Readers

The annual cycle of regulation development takes place earlier in Canada than in the United States. To meet the requirements of the Canadian regulatory process, proposals for hunting regulations must be finalized no later than early March of each year. Canadian representatives at the summer Flyway Council meetings and other hearings are not reporting on what is being considered, but on what has been passed into law.

## 2009 BREEDING POPULATION SURVEYS: Preliminary Information

Information from field programs undertaken in the spring of 2009 is provided for areas for which new data were available at the time of writing. It should be considered to be preliminary. The results of these and other 2009 breeding population surveys will be described in detail and compared to historical data sets in the November 2009 report, *Population Status of Migratory Game Birds in Canada*.

### DUCKS

#### British Columbia

(Breault, CWS, pers. comm.)

Temperatures were atypically cold throughout the 2008-2009 winter in most of the province, resulting in heavier than normal snow accumulations at low elevations. From November 2008 through February 2009, precipitation was above normal in the north and below normal in the south, while March saw a series of Pacific frontal storms moving across the province, changing weather patterns and bringing heavier than normal snowfall to most areas. Snowpack conditions were quite variable across the B.C. Interior in late April and early May 2009, below normal for the Southern Interior, near-normal in the Central Interior and above normal in the Northern Interior. Water levels were low overall and habitat conditions poor in May 2009. These conditions were similar to those in 2007 and 2008.

Two major surveys have been used to estimate trends in duck populations in British Columbia: a large-scale (11 million hectare) aerial survey of the B.C. Interior and a replicated series of ground counts covering selected wetlands of the Southern and Central Interior Plateau of B.C. Ground counts were modified in 2007 to focus on managed and protected wetlands (habitat assessment). Aerial surveys of breeding waterfowl were begun in the Central Interior Plateau of British Columbia in May 2006, and repeated annually since then, over an area in excess of 10 million hectares. The survey used a strip-transect total count method similar to the one used for the mid-continent breeding waterfowl survey, although all waterfowl sightings are geo-referenced and associated with a unique habitat type (i.e. stream, wetland, river, lake, agricultural field) and ecological unit (ecosection) to allow for the subsequent determination of ecosystem-specific, habitat-to-species relationships and the development of landscape use models. Waterfowl population estimates are calculated separately for each ecosection and also for the entire survey area. The

preliminary analysis of the 2009 data estimated 399,703 (6,807 CI) breeding waterfowl in May 2009, 6% below the 425,866 (7,492 CI) waterfowl estimated in May 2008. Mallards were once again the most abundant species (~ 20% of the total, similar to 21% of the total estimated last year).

#### Prairie Canada

(Caswell and Schuster 2009)

The prairie, parkland and boreal regions of Western Canada are surveyed annually in May as part of the cooperative United States Fish and Wildlife Service-Canadian Wildlife Service (USFWS-CWS) Waterfowl Breeding Population and Habitat Survey. The survey area (strata 13-18; 20-40; 75-77) covers most of Alberta, Saskatchewan, Manitoba, and parts of the Northwest Territories. Spring habitat conditions are measured by the number of May ponds - which are only measured in the southern portion (strata 20-40, 75 and 76) of this survey area. The pond number in the Prairie Provinces increased 17% from 2008 to 3.57 million ponds, which is 2% above the long-term average (1955-2008). Pond counts were 7% lower in Alberta, 11% higher in Saskatchewan, and 1% lower in Manitoba compared to 2008. The total number of ducks in the Canadian Prairies was 12.712 million, which was a decrease of 11% from the estimate of 14.301 million in 2008. Declines in the total number of ducks (all species) occurred in the southern part of the survey area (-12%), with northern areas increasing by 13%.

Mallards did not change from 2008, but overall levels remained 13% below the long-term average. Northern Pintail numbers decreased by 10% from their 2008 levels to about 927 thousand, and were 62% below the long-term average. Scaup numbers increased by 23% from last year- however they remained 23% below the long-term average. Canvasbacks increased by 38% in the southern prairies and overall were up 35% from 2008, and 20% above the long-term average.

#### Literature Cited

Caswell, F.D. and M.H. Schuster. 2009. *Prairie Waterfowl Status Report: a briefing document*. Unpublished report of the Canadian Wildlife Service, Prairie and Northern Region.

#### Eastern Canada

(Gilliland, Pollard, Lepage, and Ross, CWS, pers. comm.)

In Eastern Canada, breeding waterfowl populations are monitored annually through the Eastern Waterfowl Survey.

**Newfoundland and Labrador.** In Eastern and Central Newfoundland spring arrived two weeks earlier than normal. The spring season was progressively later in the Western part of the island and into Labrador. The survey was undertaken between 12 and 31 May 2009. Although Black Duck numbers increased throughout the 1990s, their numbers declined between 2000 and 2005. In 2008, counts were higher than in 2005 but were below the long-term average density. In 2009, densities of Black Ducks were up from 2008 and the long-term average. Unusual numbers of grouped males in Eastern and Central Newfoundland were observed which may have represented moult-migrants from southern breeding areas or local males that completed breeding early. Ring-necked Duck densities have been highly variable over the survey period. Their densities are at or above the long-term average. The numbers of American Green-winged Teal have been increasing since 2006 and are currently well above the long-term average.

**Maritime Canada.** Conditions observed during aerial surveys in New Brunswick and Nova Scotia suggested an early spring in Maritime Canada, however the timing of leaf-out of tree cover was near normal. In the Cape Breton Highlands, all water bodies surveyed were ice-free, for the first time since initiation of the formal Eastern Waterfowl Survey program. In line with the latter observation, grouped male dabbling ducks were more commonly encountered by the survey crew in 2009 than in previous years. Higher numbers of lone male Ring-necked Ducks were also encountered, which would suggest an early nesting effort for that species. Although overall breeding pair counts are expected to be relatively similar to previous years, the early nesting effort, and an absence of the flooding that occurred in 2008 should yield a relatively strong nesting and brood production effort. Both temperate-breeding Canada Geese and Mallards appeared to show an increase in abundance and distribution based on survey flights and wetland specific ground-based counts on Prince Edward Island.

**Quebec.** Spring conditions in Quebec were dominated by cool and windy temperatures. Lakes were late thawing in the northern and eastern part of the survey area. The thaw date of Lake Saint-Jean, which is located in the central survey area, was May 3, five days earlier than the long term average (1916-2009). Overall, conditions in the boreal forest during the 2009 survey were good. The survey took place between April 23 and June 1.

**Ontario.** Spring 2009 arrived more slowly than usual throughout Ontario and was especially delayed in the far north where the coastal zone along Hudson

Bay remained largely frozen well into June. Nesting phenology of waterfowl appeared not to be particularly delayed in most of Ontario despite the cooler than normal conditions. Precipitation during May was roughly normal with some coming as light snow in northern Ontario. During the Eastern Waterfowl Survey, there was virtually no leaf-out, resulting in excellent visibility. Similar to last year, numbers in central and north eastern Ontario appeared up for almost all species including the Black Duck. Water levels were generally good as winter snow levels were moderate to high in much of the survey area. Conditions during nest initiation, although cool, showed little variability with no major storms or cold snaps that could impact nesting success in the survey area.

## GESE

### Lesser Snow Geese in the Western Canadian Arctic

(Wood, CWS, pers. comm.)

More than 95% of Snow Geese in the western Canadian Arctic nest on Banks Island. Numbers here have increased from about 100 000 birds in 1960 to over half a million birds in 2002. The remaining 5% of the population nest in small colonies on the mainland at the Anderson River and Kendall Island migratory bird sanctuaries and, more recently, on the North Slope of Alaska. The mainland populations in the Canadian arctic have varied in size from year to year (Kendall Island) or declined (Anderson River) during the last decade. Aerial surveys of the two mainland nesting areas in June 2009 suggested that the nesting effort was below average at Kendall Island bird sanctuary and extremely poor at Anderson River bird sanctuary, therefore production is expected to be below average. Reports from biologists on Banks Island indicate that nest initiation appeared to be on time with good nesting effort; therefore, production is expected to be at least average on Banks Island this year.

### Wrangel Island Lesser Snow Geese

(Baranyuk, Wrangel Island Reserve, Russia, pers. comm.)

The colony of Lesser Snow Geese on Wrangel Island, Russia, is monitored by Russian biologists. They have documented a decline in nesting bird numbers: from 120 000 in 1970 to fewer than half that number in the 1990s (Kerbes et al. 1999). This population is of great interest to Canada because these birds migrate through Western Canada in spring and fall, and more than half the population winters in the Fraser Delta of B.C. and the nearby

Skagit Delta, Washington. The 2009 spring breeding population of Wrangel Island Snow Geese was 135 000 to 140 000 birds, spread over two large colonies. Good breeding conditions resulted in 50 000 to 60 000 nests with a nest success rate of 80%. Mean clutch size was 4.1 and mean number of goslings was 3.6.

### Pacific Canada Geese

(Breault, CWS, pers. comm.)

Breeding Pacific Canada Geese are surveyed in the course of the two major surveys used to estimate trends in duck populations in British Columbia: the large-scale (11 million hectare) aerial survey of the B.C. Interior and the replicated series of ground counts covering selected wetlands of the Southern and Central Interior Plateau of B.C. Ground counts were modified in 2007 to focus on managed and protected wetlands (habitat assessment).

As previously noted, aerial surveys of breeding waterfowl were begun in the Central Interior Plateau of British Columbia in May 2006, and repeated annually since then over an area covering in excess of 10 million hectares. The survey used a strip-transect total count method similar to the one used for the mid-continent breeding waterfowl survey, although all waterfowl sightings are geo-referenced and associated with a unique habitat type (i.e. stream, wetland, river, lake, agricultural field) and ecological unit (ecosection) to allow for the subsequent determination of ecosystem-specific, habitat-to-species relationships and the development of landscape use models. Pacific Canada Goose population estimates are calculated separately for each ecoregion and also for the entire survey area. We estimated the presence of 4,681 Pacific Canada Geese in the surveyed portion of the B.C. Interior in May 2009, 92% more than the 2,431 birds estimated in May 2008.

### Geese in the Central Canadian Arctic

(Alisauskas, EC-S&T, pers. comm.)

Based on general impressions of conditions in the central Canadian Arctic, timing of nesting appears to have taken place later than average at Karrak Lake in 2009. This makes 2009 the third year in a row of later-than-average nesting, and with below-average production predicted for geese from the Queen Maud Gulf Bird Sanctuary. Preliminary estimates for both Ross's Geese and Lesser Snow Geese suggest a mean nest initiation date (NID) of June 17 compared to a long-term average of June 10 or 11 for 1991 to 2008. The record late NID of June 17, 2007 and 2008 for Ross's Geese at Karrak Lake resulted in only 7% juveniles among Ross's Geese migrating through Saskatchewan in the fall of 2007 and 13 % in fall of 2008; these percentages

were the lowest recorded from 1993 to 2008 during which such data have been gathered in Saskatchewan. It is anticipated that comparably late nesting in 2009 will result in similarly low percentages of young in Ross's, Snow and White-fronted geese during fall 2009 in Saskatchewan.

Population estimates for nesting Ross's Geese and Lesser Snow Geese are not yet available for 2009. Nevertheless, population growth over the longer term seems unabated for Ross's Geese, but has become a population decline since 2006 for Lesser Snow Geese at Karrak Lake. For example, the number of light geese that nested on Karrak Lake in 2008 was about 1.06 million, of which 726,000 were Ross's Geese, and only 336,000 were Lesser Snow Geese. These numbers represent only a 2% decline in nesting Ross's Geese at Karrak Lake from 2007 to 2008, but a 19% decline in Lesser Snow Geese. Much of the decline in nesting Snow Geese was related to the very late nesting conditions of 2007 and again in 2008, which resulted in fewer Snow Geese attempting to nest. Further declines in nesting Lesser Snow Geese nesting at Karrak Lake, are expected for 2009 due to reduced breeding probability in 2009, and reduced recruitment during since 2006. From 1993 to 2008, the long-term average rate of annual population growth at Karrak Lake was 11% for Ross's Geese and 7% for Lesser Snow Geese. The combined long-term average was 8.7%.

### Lesser Snow Geese in Hudson Bay

(Abraham, CWS; Rockwell, American Museum of Natural History, New-York, pers. comm.)

#### Akimiski Island & Cap Henrietta Maria

The spring thaw was late in the Hudson Bay Lowlands in 2009. As a result nest initiation by Lesser Snow Goose on Akimiski Island occurred later than usual, by about 10 days. Ground searches on the coastal portion of the colony revealed nest numbers at or slightly above average. Average reproductive performance is expected.

Farther north at Cape Henrietta Maria, spring thaw was extremely late. The Lesser Snow Goose colony was surveyed on June 5. On that date, 50-70% of the colony's usual occupied area was still snow covered with the majority of the rest of the area under water. Nest numbers were lower than usual and we expect a significantly reduced nesting effort. On June 13, 20 nests were visited at an inland site; the mean clutch size was 3.25 and predicted mean hatch date was 29 June-1 July, later than the long-term average by about two weeks.

#### La Perouse Bay

Nesting studies of Lesser Snow Geese at La Perouse Bay are now in their 41<sup>st</sup> year. In 2009, production of young at the La Perouse Bay colony is expected to be very low. A very late melt resulted in

severe flooding of most of the nesting habitat at mid-June when nesting should have been well underway. For the few active nests that were discovered, modal clutch size was 2 and mean hatch date is predicted to be around 10 July, which is 17 days later than average and three days later than the previous record of 7 July in 1983. In study plots, nest densities were down by 60-80% and by early July, many pairs appeared to have given up and left the colony. In long-term monitoring plots, there was 100% nest failure, largely due to intense predator activity.

### Waterfowl breeding conditions on Southampton Island

(*Gilchrist, pers. comm.*)

The spring was two or three weeks late on Southampton Island this year, the latest since studies began in 1996. Ample snow combined with below freezing conditions at night persisted through June, and days rarely exceeded 2°C which meant for a slow melt. The arrival of Common Eiders to the nesting colony in East Bay was two or three weeks late. Despite this, geese were observed incubating large clutches by June 22 at the East Bay Migratory Bird Sanctuary.

### Greater Snow Geese

(*Lefebvre, CWS, and Gauthier, Laval University, pers. comm.*)

#### *Southern Quebec*

Since 1965, the Canadian Wildlife Service has conducted an annual spring survey of staging Greater Snow Geese in southern Quebec. This year, the photographic inventory of the population was conducted on May 4, 2009, using five aircraft. The weather on the day of the survey was warm and sunny - conditions that help concentrate the geese at roosting sites making them easier to detect. The preliminary estimate of the 2009 spring population was  $1\,428\,000 \pm 91\,000$ , which is the highest estimate on record and 50% higher than last year's count of  $947\,000 \pm 64\,000$ .

#### *Bylot Island*

An extensive study of Greater Snow Goose reproduction has been conducted on Bylot Island for the last 20 years. In 2009, spring conditions at the Bylot Island colony were favourable for nesting. A near average snow pack on June 1 melted quickly under warm, sunny conditions during the first 10 days of the month. Based on an early sample of 102 nests, the mean nest initiation date was 11 June, one day earlier than the long term average, however mean clutch size was 3.4, slightly lower than the long term average of 3.7 (n=115). Early reports indicated lower nest densities than in 2008 perhaps

due to harsh conditions in northern Quebec which resulted in delayed migration. Indeed, large numbers of migrating Snow Geese were observed near Aupaluk on the Ungava Bay coast on 9 June (P. Castelli, pers. comm.). Nevertheless, later observations, showed that overall, nest density on Bylot Island was relatively high in 2009 indicating a good breeding year. Despite the collapse of lemming numbers, nest depredation by arctic foxes is low and production of young in 2009 is expected to be above the long term-average.

### Southern James Bay Canada Geese

(*Brook and Hughes 2009*)

The 2009 survey was flown May 20, 22 and 23 under fair to poor weather conditions. Spring phenology was very late compared with recent years in northern Ontario and on Akimiski Island, and included a blizzard that blew through the region on 17 May when Canada geese were still laying. The 2009 spring population estimate for the Southern James Bay population of Canada Geese was 77,540, which is similar to the most recent five-year average but lower than 2008. Preliminary assessments of nesting effort and hatching success indicated that 2009 productivity was below average for this population.

### *Literature Cited*

Brook, R.W. and J. Hughes. 2009. *2009 Spring Population Estimates for SJBP Canada Geese*. Unpublished report of the Ontario Ministry of Natural Resources and the Canadian Wildlife Service (Ontario Region).

### Mississippi Valley Canada Geese

(*Brook and Hughes 2009*)

The 2009 survey was flown under poor to excellent weather conditions on June 2-4. The timing of the survey was good on the inland strata but early on the coastal strata where birds were in the first week on incubation due to lingering snow, ice and flooding.

Spring conditions on the breeding grounds were very late compared to recent years, with snowmelt occurring on a timeline closer to the latest years of the record period (1989-2008). Hatch was correspondingly late, expected to peak in the first week of July. A spring blizzard in mid May appears to have affected the breeding effort and success - especially on the high density coastal strata. The spring breeding population estimate was 239,631, which was down from 2008 and the 2004-2008 average. However, the total population estimate for 2009 was about average at 518 232, suggesting a drop in breeding effort rather than in breeding bird abundance which was similar to 2008. Productivity is expected to be well below average in 2009.

## Literature Cited

Brook, R.W. and J. Hughes. 2009. *Preliminary Spring Survey Results for MVP Canada Geese, 2009*. Unpublished report of the Ontario Ministry of Natural Resources and the Canadian Wildlife Service (Ontario Region).

### Eastern Prairie Canada Geese

(Raedeke, Missouri Department of Conservation, pers. comm., 2009)

Breeding phenology in 2009 was the latest on record (1976-2009). Much of the Eastern Prairie Population (EPP) breeding range was still snow covered as late as June 12 and most large lakes were still ice covered when the survey began on June 15. The late arrival of spring likely will result in very little production of young birds. Water levels in lakes and streams appeared slightly below average with the exception of along the coast where late snow melt resulted in extensive flooding.

The 2009 EPP estimate of  $279\,900 \pm 31\,200$  was similar ( $P=0.318$ ) to the 2008 estimate of  $256\,600 \pm 33\,600$  geese. The estimate of 50 400 geese represented by singles was similar to the estimate of  $55\,500 \pm 9\,800$  in 2008 ( $P=0.262$ ) and lower than the 2007 record high estimate of  $82\,500 \pm 12\,000$  ( $P<0.01$ ). The estimate of geese in pairs remained high with an estimate of  $118\,800 \pm 17\,000$  in 2009 compared to  $105\,600 \pm 15\,500$  in 2008 ( $P=0.262$ ) and to  $70\,900 \pm 11\,400$  in 2007.

The 2009 estimate of  $110\,800 \pm 24\,200$  geese in groups was similar ( $P=0.419$ ) to the 2008 estimate of  $95\,500 \pm 28\,200$ . The two-year average of 165 100 geese represented as singles and pairs is well above the two-year average minimum of 75 000 that would warrant more restrictive regulations.

### North Atlantic Canada Geese

(Gilliland, CWS, pers. comm.)

The North Atlantic Canada Goose breeding population is surveyed as part of the Eastern Waterfowl Survey (see section on Ducks - Eastern Canada). The current density of Canada Geese is well above their long-term average. As in 2008, a large proportion of the pairs observed in 2009 were found associated with a nest and an unusual number had clutches of five or six eggs.

### Atlantic Canada Geese

(Harvey, Maryland Department of Wildlife and Heritage, and Rodrigue, and Cotter, CWS, pers. comm.)

### Breeding pair survey (Ungava Bay & Hudson Bay)

The survey of Canada Geese breeding in northern Québec was conducted between June 20

and June 26 2009. The survey covered the three regions known to harbour the highest densities of nesting Atlantic Population geese (interior Ungava Peninsula, coastal Ungava and Hudson Bays, as well as the tundra-forest transition zone south of the peninsula).

Spring temperatures in 2009 were below normal and snow melt occurred late, particularly along Hudson Bay coast. At the time of the survey, there was still a lot of frozen habitat along the Hudson Bay coast.

The estimated number of breeding pairs (176 118 pairs,  $SE = 14\,421$ ) was similar to the 2008 estimate of 169 699 pairs ( $SE = 14\,331$ ) ( $p=0.749$ ). The proportion of indicated pairs observed as single geese (38%) was below the average for the 17 years of the survey (range = 34-62%, mean = 51%) and consistent with other years of poor productivity. Nesting studies along Ungava Bay also indicated poor productivity. Nest initiation dates were later and clutch sizes were smaller than the long-term average. The total population estimate (breeding pairs and grouped birds) was 1,097,744 individuals ( $SE = 87,555$ ) compared to 988,977 ( $SE = 81,129$ ) in 2008. The total population estimate may contain large numbers of moult-migrant geese and should be interpreted cautiously.

### Nesting Survey (Coastal lowlands along Ungava Bay)

In 1996 a recruitment study was initiated on Atlantic Population Canada Geese nesting on the Ungava Peninsula (Nunavik) in northern Quebec. In 2009, five sites located in the coastal lowlands along Ungava Bay were ground-searched for nests on June 9 to 15.

On the Ungava Peninsula in 2009, snow melt was considerably later than in most years (about 2-3 weeks later than in 2008 as reported by Paulus Novalinga (Puvirnituq) and Jimmy Johannes (Kuujjuarapik)).

At the time of the nest survey, most nests were in early incubation. The mean nest initiation date (average of all 5 sites) in 2009 was 4 June, which is 12 days later than last year and 7 days later than the long-term average (1996-2009). In 2009 the total number of nests found and the mean clutch size for all 5 sites are 62 and 3.62, respectively. For clutch size, this is lower than the long-term average of 3.92. At the time of the survey, 55 of the 62 nests (i.e., 89%) found were still active. A trend that started a few years ago continued in 2009, and that is the two northern-most sites of Aupaluk and Tryon will be the most productive (as measured in number of nests initiated and mean clutch size). At Aupaluk, the number of nests initiated and mean clutch size in 2009 are 22 and 3.58; this is down from 40 nests initiated and a mean clutch size of 4.18 in 2008 but slightly better than in 2007 where the same number of nests were found (i.e., 22) but clutch size was only

3.05. In conclusion, productivity of AP Canada Geese on the Ungava Peninsula in 2009 should be poor to moderate.

## American Black Duck Harvest Strategy

Progress on the development of an international American Black Duck harvest strategy based on the principles of adaptive harvest management (AHM) has been published in previous CWS Migratory Birds Regulatory Reports. To summarize, in fall 2004, the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS) and CWS agreed to work towards finalizing an adaptive harvest management approach to determine appropriate levels of harvest for American Black Ducks in Canada and the U.S., based on breeding ground survey information. Models were initially based on wintering ground surveys, so certain technical adjustments will have to be made. These models are now being updated with breeding pair information.

Meanwhile, Canada and the U.S. (including CWS, USFWS, eastern provinces and states of the Atlantic and Mississippi Flyways) have continued to work on an interim international harvest strategy. An agreement has now been reached on a strategy to be employed by both countries over the next three hunting seasons (2008-09 to 2010-11), while allowing time for the development of a formal strategy based on the principles of Adaptive Harvest Management. The interim harvest strategy is prescriptive, in that it would call for no substantive changes in hunting regulations unless the Black Duck breeding population, averaged over the most recent 3 years, exceeds or falls below the long-term average breeding population by 15% or more (the long-term average breeding population is defined as the average composite estimate for the entire survey area between 1998 and 2007 inclusive). It would allow additional harvest opportunity (commensurate with the population increase) if the 3-year average breeding population exceeds the long-term average by 15% or more, and would require reduction of harvest opportunity if the 3-year average falls below the long-term average by 15% or more. The strategy is designed to share the Black Duck harvest equally between the two countries; however, recognizing incomplete control of harvest through regulations, it will allow realized harvest in either country to vary between 40 and 60%. We propose to adopt this interim international Black Duck harvest strategy for the 2008-09, 2009-10 and 2010-11 seasons.

The American Black Duck Harvest Strategy Working Group will continue to keep the appropriate regulatory consultative bodies in Canada and the U.S. informed of progress as tools are developed for

implementation of adaptive harvest management for American Black Ducks. More details on the adaptive management study can be found on the following Web site: <http://coopunit.forestry.uga.edu/blackduck/>.

## Revising the North American Waterfowl Management Plan

*(NAWMP) (by NAWMP 2011 Revision International Steering Committee)*

**Goals:** The North American Waterfowl Management Plan (Plan) will be revised in 2011 as part of the requirement for periodic updates. The proposed purpose of the Plan revision is "to sustain abundant waterfowl populations in order to preserve the culture and traditions of wildfowling with benefits to biodiversity, ecosystem processes and related recreational and economic values." This will be accomplished through partnerships of stakeholders, science-based conservation of landscapes, and sustainable harvest management. The goals of this revision are 1) to establish a unified system of waterfowl conservation that features explicit and coherent objectives broadly agreed upon by stakeholders; and 2) to implement coordinated actions for realizing those objectives.

**Rationale:** In many ways, waterfowl offer more complex management challenges than other natural resources. The large number of species, each with its own dynamics, presents a myriad of challenges magnified by the migratory nature of waterfowl. International coordination of conservation efforts is essential. Waterfowl managers have eagerly accepted these challenges for more than a half century, and each generation has produced visionaries who provided valuable contributions for continuing progress.

The history of waterfowl management in North America includes many notable mileposts. Among these are the Migratory Bird Conventions – international treaties between the U.S. and Canada (1916) and between the U.S. and Mexico (1936); creation of the U.S. "Duck Stamp" and Canada's Wildlife Habitat Conservation Stamp; establishment of the flyway council system; the tri-national North American Waterfowl Management Plan; and creation of the North American Wetlands Conservation Fund. The waterfowl management community is approaching yet another milepost.

For the most part, managers have approached waterfowl conservation in an increasingly specialized manner, which has led in many instances to fragmented consideration for harvest, habitat, and hunters. Scientific advancements in each of these arenas during the past decade have illustrated the relationships among these segments. More explicit

linkages among habitat, harvest and human dimension goals can lead to more effective management of waterfowl and wetland resources in the future.

In August, 2008, waterfowl policy makers and technicians convened in Minneapolis at *The Future of Waterfowl Management Workshop* to discuss the benefits of integrating harvest, habitat and hunter management into a more coherent system that better utilizes limited resources to benefit waterfowl and the people who enjoy them. The majority of workshop participants agreed that we should continue down the path toward integration of harvest, habitat, and human dimensions. It was agreed that the next Plan update was the appropriate venue for developing more coherent goals for waterfowl harvest and habitat management. Further, it was agreed that a group or venue be created to continue the work of the current Human Dimensions Working Group established to guide efforts of the Waterfowl Hunter Recruitment and Retention Task Force. The next Plan update, better defined as a revision of the actual NAWMP given its scope, is under way and scheduled to be completed by 2011. While the revision is currently at the planning stage, technical work necessary to build the foundation of a revised NAWMP is ongoing and it is expected that a comprehensive consultation process will be in place over the coming year.

**Call to action:** Wetlands and other habitats necessary to sustain waterfowl populations continue to be lost. In some important areas of the U.S., losses have exceeded 90%; while in many settled areas of Canada wetland losses have approached 70%. In both countries, waterfowl hunter numbers have declined, threatening a loss of hunting traditions and the very foundation of North American wildlife conservation. Hunters have been an important source of funds for waterfowl conservation and they have been primary advocates for waterfowl and wetland-friendly public policies. Clearly, the loss of wetlands and other habitats, the status of waterfowl populations, and levels of hunter participation are inextricably linked. To overcome these challenges of the future we need: 1) coherent objectives for waterfowl populations, habitat conservation and stakeholder engagement that are complementary and mutually reinforcing; 2) population goals that are attainable but adequate to satisfy hunters and other stakeholders, and sufficiently challenging to engage supporters in habitat conservation; 3) habitat goals that are adequate to achieve the demographic effects, population sizes and stakeholder experiences we desire; and 4) stakeholder participation and satisfaction sufficient to sustain habitats, populations and the conservation enterprise at mutually desired levels. Looking ahead, policy decisions regarding water, energy, agriculture, and

climate change will impact landscapes vital to waterfowl across North America. The waterfowl management community must play a leadership role in shaping these policies. To do so requires a united front – common goals, coordinated actions and clarity of focus.

**Process:** This revision will be challenging from many perspectives: technical capacities must be expanded; diverse management philosophies must be accommodated; and institutions that have served to advance waterfowl management may need modifications. Thus, a comprehensive consultative process will be essential. All stakeholders will be invited to participate in crafting this revision, including state and provincial wildlife agencies; flyway councils, joint ventures; federal agencies in Mexico Canada, and the United States; waterfowl hunters; and other interested publics. Input and reviews of drafts will be requested in a timely manner in order to prepare a final draft by March 2011.

**Conclusion:** The 2011 revision of the North American Waterfowl Management Plan will help establish a better integrated and more coherent framework for managing continental waterfowl. This revision will provide guidance for allocating limited financial and human resources by establishing clear objectives for waterfowl conservation that integrate habitat conservation, population management and stakeholder interests. All who have waterfowl management responsibilities, or share a passion for waterfowl and their habitats, are urged to engage in charting the future of waterfowl conservation in North America.

## Growth Rates in North American Goose Populations

(Kathryn Dickson, CWS, National Office)

Populations of many North American goose species have been growing rapidly over recent decades. This pattern has been well-described for mid-continent Lesser Snow Geese (*Chen caerulescens caerulescens*) and Greater Snow Geese (*Chen caerulescens atlantica*) (<http://www.cws-scf.ec.gc.ca/mbc-com/default.asp?lang=en&n=62F2AA13>) (Batt, 1997, Batt, 1998), two populations which in 1999 were designated to be overabundant. In this case, the populations had become so large that unsustainable levels of foraging were adversely affecting key habitats for migratory birds and other wildlife. Left unchecked, overabundant snow goose populations were judged likely to become seriously injurious to their own long-term survival and to that of other migratory birds, compromising the biological diversity of the arctic ecosystem. The overabundance designation meant that the responsible agencies in Canada and the United States have been

able to work at controlling the goose numbers by using extraordinary means to encourage hunters to increase their harvest to two or three times the previous level (see section regarding *Management of Overabundant Snow Geese*, this report).

The rapid growth of the Snow Goose populations is explained by three key factors. First among these is the steady increase in quantity and quality of foods available on the migration areas and wintering grounds over recent decades, to the point where food resources over winter and during migration are no longer limiting. The increase in food availability is described in detail in Jefferies *et al.* (2003), who discuss the evolution of rice cultivation in the southern United States, the spread of corn fields with their spilled grains and the increasing yields brought about through use of more and better fertilizers. Geese have adapted to this altered landscape by increasing their feeding in agricultural fields and reducing their use of natural marshes. This behaviour has allowed them to better survive over winter, return to the breeding grounds in better condition, and thus, produce more young (Abraham *et al.* 1996). Secondly, the establishment of refugia (such as National Wildlife Refuges in the USA, National Wildlife Areas in Canada, sanctuaries etc.) and thirdly, the inability of hunting to maintain a sufficiently high harvest rate have also contributed to the very high survival rates now enjoyed by Snow Geese (Abraham *et al.* 1996).

In addition to the factors above is the effect that climate change may have on goose populations, particularly those which breed in the arctic where the production of young is heavily dependent on the weather conditions. Production is highest when the snow melts early and temperatures are relatively mild through brood-rearing and fledging. In very cold years with a delayed spring, geese may forgo nesting altogether. For example, the Lesser Snow Goose population nesting on Wrangel Island, Russia, was reduced by 2/3 in the 1970s as a result of four consecutive late springs, while the same population has more than doubled in recent years because of relatively good weather and associated high annual recruitment (S. Boyd, pers. comm.). Based on this, it might be predicted that climate change could lead to higher productivity for this and other goose populations. Alternatively, there is recent evidence from Alaska to suggest that climate change would affect the species composition of the plant community, resulting in greater biomass but poorer quality foods for geese (Schmutz *et al.* 2008) that could have negative effects on survival and productivity.

It is not surprising that several goose species are benefitting from the increase in resources provided by the agricultural landscape. High population growth rates have also been estimated for Lesser Snow Geese of the

Canada's western arctic, Ross's Geese (*Chen rossii*) and temperate-breeding Canada Geese (*Branta canadensis*). In the latter case, not only has the agricultural landscape provided higher quality foods, the conversion of forests to open agricultural lands and even to urban lands, particularly those close to water, has created safe nesting and brood-rearing sites (Hughes 2009). As Van Eerden *et al.* (1996) stated the increased dependence of waterfowl on agricultural food tends also to lead to increasing numbers of conflicts with people, and damage to property and crops.

The pattern of landscape change in North America parallels that observed in Europe over the past couple of centuries, where the clearing of forests and draining of wetlands to produce cultivated lands began to intensify as early as 1000 A.D. (Van Eerden *et al.* 1996). The widespread application of nitrogen-based fertilizers increased plant production and extended the growing season (Van Eerden *et al.*, 1996) reported that the habit of geese feeding on improved pastures and crops became established in the Netherlands by 1400 A.D., and that once established, the tradition of feeding on certain food appears to be maintained in the population. Their review concluded that all goose species (and two species of swans) now rely heavily (at least 5 months per year) on agricultural lands for overwintering in the Netherlands – these are Greylag Goose (*Anser anser*), Bean Goose (*Anser fabalis*), White-fronted Goose (*Anser albifrons*), Pink-footed Goose (*Anser brachyrhynchus*), Barnacle Goose (*Branta leucopsis*) and Brent Goose (*Branta bernicla*) – and that all species increased in abundance between the 1960s and 1990s (Van Eerden *et al.* 1996). The increases in abundance are due to the favourable landscape conditions as well as to a significant reduction in harvest mortality which took place during the same period (Van Eerden *et al.* 1996).

In contrast to the situation in northern Europe where the abundance of all goose species has responded positively to landscape changes by capitalizing on agricultural food availability, some North American species have not reaped the benefits. For example, neither subspecies of Brant (*Branta bernicla hrota* and *Branta bernicla nigricans*) has begun using agricultural landscapes to any great extent, and for the most part remain restricted to natural marshes. Their relatively small populations as estimated during winter surveys appear to be rather stable (CWS Waterfowl Committee, 2008). In addition, hunters continue to harvest Brant at relatively high harvest rates controlled under management plans (e.g. Atlantic Flyway Council 2002).

It might be expected that Cackling Geese (*Branta hutchinsii*) would also capitalize on the present agricultural landscape. This species occupies much of the same breeding, migration and wintering area as Lesser Snow Geese but has not

shown the same increase in abundance and appears to be held in check by sufficiently high harvest rates. However, the quality of abundance estimates for this species is poor.

Until recently, the abundance of Mid-continent Greater White-fronted Geese (*Anser albifrons*) followed a pattern of continued increase. Based on winter counts, the population increased dramatically from 12,000 in the 1950s to 140,000 in 1995 (Abraham and Jefferies, 1997). Recognizing that its numbers were likely underestimated, and that it might more accurately be counted on the fall staging area, a new survey was initiated in 1992 in southern Saskatchewan and Alberta (Nieman and Gollop 1993). Since then, that survey has shown a fluctuating but stable population of between 600 000 and 1 million birds (Warner *et al.* 2008).

Why has the population of White-fronted Geese recently stopped growing? This too, appears related to more recent changes in the agricultural landscape. Recent evidence reported by Pearse *et al.* (submitted) reported that in the late 1990s the geese had greatly reduced the accumulation of fats on the key spring staging area in Nebraska, in comparison to the late 1970s. This is because much less corn is now grown in that area (Krapu *et al.* 2004). Instead, the birds now spend several weeks in southern Saskatchewan feeding on pulse crops, which Pearse *et al.* (submitted) showed did not make up the deficit in fat storage. This deficit could reduce the subsequent reproductive success; age ratios in the harvest are now much lower than they were formerly (D. Nieman pers. comm.). Pearse *et al.* (submitted) also suggested other factors potentially related to this shift in spring staging distribution such as an earlier migration schedule and increased competition with Lesser Snow Geese staging in Nebraska.

In addition, the tight family bonds of White-fronted Geese render the species relatively easy to decoy and so remain very susceptible to hunting mortality. Alisauskas *et al.* (2009) estimated adult harvest rates through 2004 for White-fronted Geese to be about twice those estimated for Lesser Snow Geese or Ross's Geese, and about the same as for Greater Snow Geese. Continued high harvest rates and reduced production may be preventing White-fronted Geese from increasing rapidly.

In general the goose populations of North America are strongly influenced by the distribution and quality of winter foods. The present quantity of high quality food is contributing to the rapid increase in abundance of several populations, in some cases beyond desirable limits. Whether or not special management actions will be required in future to reduce damage and conflicts is not known. As indicated by Garrott *et al.* (1993) there is certainly a need to work diligently to stop the declines of rare species, but we must also act to address

conservation issues that concern common and overabundant species, and further, that acting to address overabundance is sometimes necessary despite the unpopular fact that it may be necessary to remove animals. Our experience with Snow Geese suggests that we need to carefully monitor the abundance of North American goose populations and implement prescriptions before they increase beyond our ability to manage and control.

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**Management of Overabundant Snow Geese**

*Issue*

The rapid growth of most Snow Goose populations is of great concern. Assessments of the environmental effects of the rapidly growing populations of mid-continent Lesser Snow Geese and Greater Snow Geese have been completed by working groups of Canadian and American scientists. Their analyses are contained in the comprehensive reports entitled *Arctic Ecosystems in Peril – Report of the Arctic Goose Habitat Working Group* (Batt 1997) and *The Greater Snow Goose – Report of the Arctic Goose Habitat Working Group* (Batt 1998). These working groups concluded that the increase in Snow Goose populations was primarily human induced. Improved farming practices supplying a steady food source along with the safety of refuges have resulted in increased survival and reproductive rates in Snow Geese. These populations have become so large that they are affecting the plant communities at staging areas and breeding grounds on which they and other species rely. Grazing and grubbing by geese not only permanently removes vegetation, but also changes soil salinity, nitrogen dynamics and moisture levels. The result is the alteration or elimination of the plant communities, which in all likelihood will not be restored. Although the Arctic is vast, the areas that support migrating and breeding geese and other companion species are limited in extent and some areas are likely to become inhospitable for decades. Increasing crop damage is also an important consequence of the growing Snow Goose populations.

Increasing numbers of spring migrant Greater Snow Geese are being observed on the tidal marsh habitats in and around Restigouche County, New Brunswick. CWS, in concert with the New Brunswick Department of Natural Resources, is continuing to examine the possibility of establishing special conservation measures in New Brunswick to assist efforts already in place in Quebec to curtail the rapid population growth and reduce the population size of Greater Snow Geese. It is anticipated that consultations will be expanded over the next several years to determine whether the special measures in place in Quebec should be extended to include northwestern New Brunswick.

*Regulation*

Several concurrent management measures are being undertaken to curtail the rapid population growth and reduce population size to a level consistent with the carrying capacity of the habitat. One measure attempts to increase the mortality rate of Snow Geese by two to three times the rate achieved prior to the introduction of special conservation measures. Beginning in 1999, an amendment to the *Migratory Birds Regulations* created special conditions under which hunters were encouraged to take overabundant species for conservation reasons and, in some cases and subject to specific controls, to use exceptional methods and equipment such as electronic calls and bait. The 1999 and 2000 regulations applied in selected areas of Quebec and Manitoba. Beginning

in spring 2001, special conservation measures were also implemented in Saskatchewan and Nunavut. The dates and locations of application of these special conservation measures were determined in consultation with the provincial governments, other organizations and local communities.

#### Evaluation

Evaluation studies are being implemented to track progress toward the goals of reduced population growth and, ultimately, recovery by plant communities.

For Lesser Snow Geese, the original objectives were to increase the continental harvest to approximately 0.8 to 1.2 million birds annually (Rockwell et al. 1997). These projections were later challenged as being too conservative, and annual harvest requirements of 1.4 to 3.4 million birds were projected on the basis of updated information (Cooke et al. 2000; Rockwell and Ankney 2000). An evaluation of the effectiveness of the special measures for mid-continent Lesser Snow Geese was carried out. Overall, the balance of evidence favored the conclusion that the midcontinent population has not declined, but has continued to grow during the conservation measures, although perhaps at a reduced rate (Alisauskas et al. (submitted)). The authors concluded that the weighted survival probability for midcontinent Snow Geese essentially did not change between the period preceding the conservation measures (1989-1997), and the during the conservation measures themselves (1998-2006). They estimated low harvest rates which increased from 0.024 during 1989-1997 for the most northern of the arctic colonies geese to only 0.027 during 1998-2006, and from 0.031 to only 0.037 for the more southern arctic colonies. Alisauskas et al. (submitted) concluded that the annual harvest did increase as a result of the conservation measures but failed to exceed 1 million adults in any year during the assessment period from 1989 to 2006.

In the case of Greater Snow Geese, the population objective adopted by the *North American Waterfowl Management Plan* is 500 000 birds, or about one-half of the nearly 1.0 million birds present in 1999. A recent evaluation demonstrated that special measures (for which the spring season was key) were successful in reducing the annual survival rate for adults from about 83% to about 72.5% (Calvert et al. 2007). This is reflected in the spring counts, which until this year indicated that the population had stabilized at about 1 000 000 birds; in 2009 the estimate leapt to 1.4 million birds.

Models show that without a spring harvest, the population would quickly begin to grow rapidly once more (Gauthier and Reed 2007) as a result of climatic changes that favour good breeding

conditions in the Arctic as well as improved feeding conditions (corn and other crops) on wintering and staging grounds. At the same time, it appears that the harvest in Canada has been maximized. Beginning in 2009 the eastern United States were permitted to harvest additional Greater Snow Geese under a special Conservation Order. Huang (CT Department of Environmental Protection, pers. comm.) reported that about 22 000 Greater Snow Geese were taken during the conservation measures in the United States. Whether this additional harvest pressure will be sufficient to bring the population under control remains to be seen.

Canada's strategic plan for the 2005-2010 period lays out key directions for management of Greater Snow Geese (Bélanger and Lefebvre 2006). Among these are the following: maintain a good quality long-term survey to estimate the size of the continental population; monitor the response of the population to management measures; achieve the necessary harvest rates in Quebec; work with the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service and state governments toward increasing the harvest of Greater Snow Geese on wintering grounds in the United States; maintain good quality breeding and staging habitats in Quebec; maximize bird watching and hunting opportunities; and review crop damage prevention and compensation programs.

#### Regulation for 2009-2010

The special measures implemented in spring 2009 are posted on the CWS Web site: [www.cws-scf.ec.gc.ca/publications/reg/abund\\_e.cfm](http://www.cws-scf.ec.gc.ca/publications/reg/abund_e.cfm) and are also shown in Appendix A of this report.

CWS has previously stated its intention to fix the dates for special conservation measures in the Manitoba and Saskatchewan spring hunts for mid-continent Lesser Snow Geese for the period from 2007-2008 to 2010-2011. This means that the regulations that were in effect during spring 2009 will likely remain in effect for spring 2010 (this will be confirmed in fall 2009).

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## Hunting Regulations for the 2009-2010 Season

The regulations in effect for 2009-2010 are shown in Appendix A. The amendments were approved by the Governor-in-Council on June 18, 2009.

### Newfoundland and Labrador

No regulatory changes were made for the 2009-2010 season.

### Prince Edward Island

Similar to the regulations in the other Atlantic Provinces, a separate sea duck bag limit was established (in addition to the regular inland duck limit), which includes Common Merganser, Red-breasted Merganser, Long-tailed Duck, eiders and scoters in Prince Edward Island. This amendment also extends the hunting season for these sea ducks to December 31. The combined bag limit for all species of scoters will be four as is currently in place in New Brunswick.

### Nova Scotia

No regulatory changes were made for the 2009-2010 season.

### New Brunswick

No regulatory changes were made for the 2009-2010 season.

### Quebec

#### No-Hunting Zone in Quebec

The boundaries of the Nicolet no-hunting zone were clarified by the addition of geographic coordinates.

#### Hunting district F

The hunting prohibition on a specified parcel of land in Hunting District F was removed to be no longer in effect during the spring conservation measures. The purpose of this change was to remove a barrier to increasing the harvest of Greater Snow Geese.

### Ontario

#### Removal of hunting prohibitions

Prohibitions from hunting were removed on two parcels of land that are newly protected by the

Wildlife Area Regulations (C.R.C., c. 1609) under the Canada Wildlife Act (R.S., 1985, c. W-9). The prohibitions formerly under the *Migratory Birds Regulations* duplicated those newly created under the *Wildlife Area Regulations*, and were, therefore, no longer needed. The Big Creek National Wildlife Area was established in 1973 on properties purchased by Environment Canada in 1972 and expanded in 1974. The St. Clair National Wildlife Area was established in 1978 on land acquired by Environment Canada in 1974.

## Manitoba

The regulations were amended to allow all-day hunting of Ross's Goose and Snow Goose by non-residents of Canada during the first week of the season (September 21-27) in an effort to increase the harvest of Snow Geese.

## Saskatchewan

The regulations were amended to permit the use of white and blue phase Snow Goose decoys when using electronic calls in fall as is currently permitted in spring. This change is in recognition of the large proportion of blue phase snow geese in the mid-continent population and was intended to harmonize regulations with those in Manitoba and Alberta, where the use of white and blue phase Snow Goose decoys is already allowed. The use of electronic Snow Goose calls for the hunting of Snow Geese is currently allowed in specified parts of Canada and in parts of the United States as a means of increasing the harvest of this species.

## Alberta

### Waterfowler Heritage Days

The regulations were amended to establish Waterfowler Heritage Days in the Province of Alberta in accordance with subsections 5(11) and 5(12) of the *Migratory Birds Regulations*. The amendment was made at the request of the Province of Alberta. Two days, September 5 and 6, are designated Waterfowler Heritage Days in the southern portion of Alberta (hunting zones 5, 6, 7). The regular waterfowl hunting season will open on September 8. To conform to provisions set out in the *Migratory Birds Convention Act, 1994* (which limits the open season period to a total of 107 days) implementation of Waterfowler Heritage Days resulted in the removal of two days at the end of the regular hunting season. The regular hunting season will remain unchanged in the other hunting zones. Waterfowler Heritage Days are currently also in effect in Newfoundland and Labrador, Prince Edward Island, Nova Scotia, New

Brunswick, Quebec, Manitoba and British Columbia.

Waterfowler Heritage Days provide young hunters that are under the age of majority the opportunity to have a mentor teach them the skills required to be a successful migratory game bird hunter, such as the use of decoys and effective bird retrieval. By establishing Waterfowler Heritage Days prior to the opening of the migratory game bird season, the mentoring of young hunters can take place in a controlled environment, on a day when no other hunters are permitted to hunt migratory game birds. Subsection 5(11) of the *Migratory Birds Regulations* specifies that on Waterfowler Heritage Days only young hunters, under the age of majority but within the age permitted by provincial or territorial hunting legislation, who are lawfully able to hunt in the province or territory, and who are accompanied by a licensed migratory game bird hunter who is over the age of majority, are allowed to hunt the migratory game birds specified for the province or territory in *Schedule 1 of the Migratory Birds Regulations*. Moreover, under the federal *Firearms Act*, all hunters, including a hunter who is a minor, must hold a valid firearms license issued under the *Firearms Act*, unless they are under the direct and immediate supervision of a person who may lawfully possess the firearm. Provincial and territorial peace officers enforce the federal *Firearms Act*. Subsection 5(12) of the *Migratory Bird Regulations* further specifies that the hunter who is over the age of majority may not accompany more than two minors at one time and may not have in their possession or use a firearm while accompanying the minor. On a Waterfowler Heritage Day, a minor who meets the above criteria is not required to possess a Migratory Game Bird Hunting Permit; however, the minor must possess a Migratory Game Bird Hunting Permit to hunt during any other open season in Canada. Enforcement of the *Migratory Birds Regulations*, including the regulations in effect on Waterfowler Heritage Days, is carried out by Environment Canada wildlife enforcement officers, the Royal Canadian Mounted Police, and provincial and territorial conservation officers designated under the *Migratory Birds Convention Act, 1994*.

Waterfowler Heritage Days were established to educate young hunters and introduce migratory game bird hunting to young people. The overriding objective of the *Migratory Birds Regulations* is conservation of migratory game bird species, and knowledgeable, well-trained hunters are important contributors to this objective.

### Sandhill Crane Hunting

As reported in December 2008 (CWS Waterfowl Committee, December 2008), the province of Alberta requested that Environment Canada initiate a new

season that would permit hunting of Sandhill Cranes in Alberta, similar to that already in place in Saskatchewan, Manitoba and Yukon, beginning in 2009. Subsequently, Alberta reconsidered its position, and asked that Environment Canada not proceed with this proposal for the hunting season this year. The Alberta government decided against allowing a Sandhill Crane hunt this year, citing lingering concerns that hunters could mistake endangered Whooping Cranes for their more common cousins. Environment Canada agreed to exclude the proposed hunting season this year while Alberta re-evaluates the proposed implementation of a Sandhill Crane season in that province.

### **British Columbia**

No regulatory changes were made for the 2009-2010 season.

### **Nunavut**

#### Snow Goose

The regulations were amended to create special conservation measures for overabundant Snow Goose from August 15 through August 31 in Nunavut, a period when hunters may take Snow Geese outside the regular hunting season.

The daily bag limit for Canadian hunters was also increased (from 15 to 20) and non-resident hunters (from 5 to 20) and the possession limit for non-residents (from 10 to 80). These changes were intended to contribute to the success of the special conservation measures to control population growth of Greater Snow Geese and mid-continent Lesser Snow Geese.

In addition, duck and goose bag and possession limits were adjusted in part of Nunavut (islands in James Bay) in order to make them consistent with regulations on adjacent mainland areas in Ontario and Quebec.

The use of white and blue phase Snow Goose decoys was authorized for Snow Goose hunting in Nunavut. This change was in recognition of the large proportion of blue phase snow geese in the mid-continent population. The use of electronic Snow Goose calls for the hunting of Snow Geese is currently allowed in specified parts of Canada and in parts of the United States as a means of increasing the harvest of this species.

### **Northwest Territories**

No regulatory changes were made for the 2009-2010 season.

### **Yukon Territory**

A third Yukon Hunting District was created by dividing the former Southern Hunting District at the 62<sup>nd</sup> parallel of latitude. This allows an earlier opening for the hunting season, beginning on August 15, for Yukon resident hunters in the northern portion of Yukon (north of 62 degrees north latitude). The opening of the hunting season for non-residents remains September 1. Earlier opening dates for northern residents were made possible by the 1995 protocol amending the *Migratory Birds Convention*.

### **Trends in the Sale of Migratory Game Bird Hunting Permits**

*(Gendron, CWS pers. comm.)*

Information on the sale of Migratory Game Bird Hunting Permits was compiled for the time period of 1966-2008. Results indicated that annual sales peaked in 1978 and have subsequently declined almost every year. However, sales have increased in each of the last three years. Specifically, sales in 2006 increased by 0.31% relative to 2005, and sales in 2007 increased by 2.1% relative to 2006, which represented the largest increase in percentage of sales since the 1970s. Lastly, sales in 2008 increased by 1.23% relative to the previous year making the overall increase of sales between 2005 and 2008 about 3.63%. In 2008, sales increased in most provinces, particularly in British Columbia, Quebec and Newfoundland and Labrador. Although declines were observed for Saskatchewan and Manitoba, closer examination of the results revealed that these declines were largely due to significant drops in permit sales to non-Canadians. In fact, permit sales to Canadian continued to increase in these two provinces.

### **Please Report Bird Bands**

The North American Bird Banding Program relies on the public to report bird bands to our office. Reporting bird bands helps scientists and wildlife managers continue to learn about, monitor and conserve our bird populations.

There are three ways to report bands to the Canadian Bird Banding Office: online at [www.reportband.gov](http://www.reportband.gov), by calling toll free 1-800-327-2263 (1-800-327-BAND), or by writing to:

Bird Banding Office  
National Wildlife Research Centre  
Canadian Wildlife Service  
Environment Canada  
Ottawa, Ontario  
Canada K1A 0H3

By submitting your encounter reports online you will immediately receive banding data and you have the option to print your certificate of appreciation at home. Certificates and banding data will be sent by regular mail for encounters reported by phone or by mail.

The web address [www.reportband.gov](http://www.reportband.gov) has replaced the postal address on new issue bands. The toll-free telephone number remains on bands. Hunters can still expect to find all issues of bands on waterfowl including bands without the web address or phone number. All bands can be reported online, by phone or by mail.

## Updates to the Migratory Birds Regulations

### Hunting from a vehicle for hunters with physical disabilities

Mobility-impaired hunters in Canada may face a significant challenge under the federal *Migratory Birds Regulations* because the regulations prohibit the hunting of migratory game birds from a motorized vehicle. A mobility-impaired hunter is someone whose mobility is severely impaired, that is paraplegic or is otherwise permanently confined to a wheelchair.

The general prohibition against hunting from vehicles is a long-standing and accepted part of the regulations. It is important, in part because of health and safety concerns, and also because migratory birds may be especially vulnerable if hunted from a vehicle.

The Field and Stream Association for Manitobans with Disabilities contacted Environment Canada in 2003 requesting that an amendment to the *Migratory Birds Regulations* be considered to allow the use of a vehicle while hunting migratory birds. The Association reported that the provincial hunting regulations in Manitoba had been modified to allow a permanently disabled hunter to discharge a firearm from a stationary vehicle while hunting for big game. Since then, Environment Canada has been investigating whether it could accommodate that request. This investigation has included consultation on options with various groups and with provincial and territorial officials.

Environment Canada recognizes the importance of provincial and territorial legislation dealing with the hunting of wildlife. Typically hunters of migratory game birds are subject to both the federal regulations aimed at the conservation of migratory birds and provincial legislation covering more general aspects of hunting such as hunter safety training. The current situation is that while provincial or territorial legislation in Canada has in many cases been amended to allow certain mobility-impaired hunters to hunt specified species from vehicles, it has not been possible to extend such initiatives to hunters of migratory game birds because of the prohibition remaining in the *Migratory Birds Regulations*.

Environment Canada is therefore considering a regulatory amendment so that a hunter who is mobility-impaired may hunt migratory birds from a vehicle that is stationary, provided:

- that the hunter qualifies to hunt migratory birds from a stationary vehicle under a scheme for mobility-impaired hunters set up under the provincial or territorial hunting legislation, or
- they have an appropriate medical certificate as required in the revised *Migratory Birds Regulations* in provinces or territories where no such scheme exists.

In either event the hunter will need to ensure they comply with all other relevant federal, provincial, and municipal rules governing hunting and the safe use of firearms. This includes the requirement under the *Migratory Birds Regulations* to have the means for retrieving any migratory birds taken.

### Amendment to allow for the temporary possession of migratory birds for disease testing

According to section 6(b) of the *Migratory Birds Regulations*, no person shall "have in his possession a live migratory bird, or a carcass, skin, nest or egg of a migratory bird except under authority of a permit therefore." In order to facilitate provincial, territorial, municipal and federal government employees, as well as the public, to assist in surveillance for avian influenza in wild birds found dead, the temporary possession of migratory birds is currently allowed under a ministerial order (issued under section 36 of the *Migratory Birds Regulations*). As it is envisioned that surveillance of diseases in migratory birds will continue as an ongoing measure, Environment Canada is considering amending the *Migratory Birds Regulations* to exempt individuals from the possession prohibition, in defined cases of temporary possession for disease testing.

For more information on avian influenza surveillance, please visit the following Web site:  
[www.ccwhc.ca/en/CCWHC\\_home.php](http://www.ccwhc.ca/en/CCWHC_home.php)

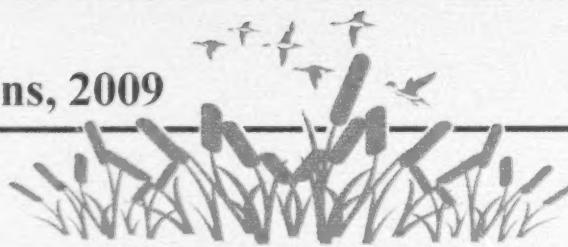
## **Appendix A**

### **2009 Migratory Birds Hunting Regulations Summaries by Province and Territory**

are also available on the CWS national Web site at:

[www.cws-scf.ec.gc.ca/publications/reg/index\\_e.cfm](http://www.cws-scf.ec.gc.ca/publications/reg/index_e.cfm)

# Migratory Birds Hunting Regulations, 2009 Summary



Watch for this loon on  
blue signs marking  
National Wildlife Areas  
and Migratory Bird Sanctuaries.



The information presented here is a summary of the law. For complete information regarding fines, general prohibitions, permitted methods of hunting and equipment, the requirement to have adequate means to retrieve birds immediately, restrictions on the use of bait, description of hunting zones, and other regulations, you may contact:

**Environment Canada**  
Wildlife Enforcement Division  
Lewisporte, Newfoundland and Labrador A0G 3A0  
P.O. Box 1201  
Tel: 709-535-0601, Lewisporte  
Tel: 709-772-5585, St. John's  
Fax: 709-535-2743  
[www.ns.ec.gc.ca/wildlife/index.html](http://www.ns.ec.gc.ca/wildlife/index.html)

Check your permit and provincial hunting regulations for additional restrictions. Migratory bird hunters hunting within Nunatsiavut should contact the Nunatsiavut Government (709-896-8582) for additional information on access to Labrador Inuit Lands and additional hunting regulations. A map of the Labrador Inuit Land Claim can be found at: [www.laa.gov.nl.ca/laa](http://www.laa.gov.nl.ca/laa).

**Migratory bird hunters:** Non-toxic shot must be used in **all** areas of Canada to hunt migratory game birds, except for woodcock, Band-tailed Pigeons, murres (turs), and Mourning Doves.

The bag and possession restrictions for Barrow's Goldeneye implemented in 2007 remain in place.

**Murre (turr) hunters:** All hunters must purchase and be in possession of a Migratory Game Bird Hunting Permit and a Habitat Conservation Stamp while hunting murres. This hunt is only open to **residents** of Newfoundland and Labrador. Murres are the only migratory bird that can be legally hunted from a power boat. Any occupant of a boat who shoots or retrieves murres, or anyone who operates a boat to pursue murres, is hunting as defined in the Migratory Birds Regulations and is **required** to hold a Migratory Game Bird Hunting Permit.

**Sunday hunting:** The Migratory Bird Hunting Regulations allow hunting for migratory birds (ducks, geese, snipe, and murres) on Sundays; however, Sunday hunting has been prohibited by the province. In 2006, the province brought in new regulations that allow Sunday hunting during specific periods of the year. Please contact the province for further information on Sunday hunting.

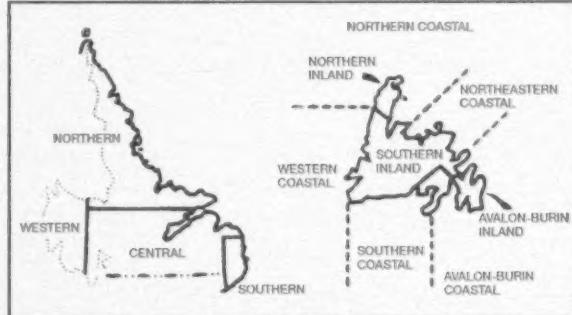
**Waterfowl Heritage Days:** Waterfowl Heritage Days provide young hunters under the age of majority with the opportunity to practice hunting skills, learn about wildlife conservation, and reinforce safety training in a structured, supervised environment before the season opens for other hunters. Licensed adult hunters who serve as mentors have an opportunity to pass on their considerable skills and knowledge by offering guidance and advice to younger hunters. The following rules are in effect:

- to participate, young hunters under the age of majority do not require the federal Migratory Game Bird Hunting Permit;
- young participants must comply with all existing safety and licensing requirements found in the *Firearms Act* and provincial hunting regulations;
- participants must be accompanied by a licensed mentor over the age of majority; and
- mentors may not hunt or carry a firearm, and may accompany no more than two young hunters.

## HELPFUL TIP

Canadians may be exposed to avian-borne viruses when hunting or handling migratory birds and other wild game. Environment Canada recommends the following website, maintained by the Public Health Agency of Canada, for information about minimizing the risk of exposure: [www.phac-aspc.gc.ca/id-mi/index.html](http://www.phac-aspc.gc.ca/id-mi/index.html)

## Waterfowl and Snipe Hunting Zones



"Coastal" refers to that portion of the coast lying within 100 metres of the mean ordinary high-water mark, including the coastal portions of offshore islands and the adjacent marine coastal waters.

## CRIME STOPPERS

Hunting violations may be reported to the Canadian Wildlife Service office, your local RCMP detachment, or Crime Stoppers (1-800-363-8477).

## OPEN SEASONS ON THE ISLAND OF NEWFOUNDLAND (No open season for Harlequin Ducks\*\*)

Area	Ducks, including mergansers (other than Long-tailed Ducks*), Harlequin Ducks**, eiders, and scoters), geese, and snipe	Long-tailed Ducks*, eiders, and scoters
All coastal zones	Third Saturday in September to last Saturday in December; Waterfowler Heritage Day: Second Saturday of September	Fourth Saturday of November to last day of February
All inland zones	Third Saturday in September to last Saturday in December; Waterfowler Heritage Day: Second Saturday of September	No open season

\* Long-tailed Duck is the current name for Oldsquaw.

\*\* Harlequin Ducks are also known locally as Lords and Ladies, White-eyed Divers, or Squeakers.

## BAG AND POSSESSION LIMITS ON THE ISLAND OF NEWFOUNDLAND

Limits	Ducks (other than mergansers, Long-tailed Ducks*, Harlequin Ducks**, eiders, and scoters)	Mergansers	Long-tailed Ducks*, eiders, and scoters	Geese	Snipe
Daily bags	6(a)	6	6	5	10
Possession	12(b)	12	12	10	20

(a) Not more than four may be American Black Ducks, and not more than one may be Barrow's Goldeneye.

(b) Not more than eight may be American Black Ducks, and not more than two may be Barrow's Goldeneye.

\* Long-tailed Duck is the current name for Oldsquaw.

\*\* Harlequin Ducks are also known locally as Lords and Ladies, White-eyed Divers, or Squeakers.

## OPEN SEASONS IN LABRADOR (No open season for Harlequin Ducks\*\*)

Area	Ducks (other than Harlequin Ducks** and eiders), geese, and snipe	Eiders
Northern Labrador Zone	First Saturday in September to second Saturday in December	Last Saturday in September to second Saturday in January
Western Labrador Zone	First Saturday in September to second Saturday in December	No open season
Southern Labrador Zone	Second Saturday in September to third Saturday in December; Waterfowler Heritage Day: First Saturday in September	Fourth Saturday in November to last day of February
Central Labrador Zone	First Saturday in September to second Saturday in December	Last Saturday in October to last Saturday in November and first Saturday in January to last day of February

\*\* Harlequin Ducks are also known locally as Lords and Ladies, White-eyed Divers, or Squeakers.

## BAG AND POSSESSION LIMITS IN LABRADOR

Limits	Ducks (other than mergansers, Harlequin Ducks**, eiders, and scoters)	Mergansers, scoters, and eiders	Geese	Snipe
Daily bags	6(a)	6	5	10
Possession	12(b)	12	10	20

(a) Not more than one may be Barrow's Goldeneye.

(b) Not more than two may be Barrow's Goldeneye.

\*\* Harlequin Ducks are also known locally as Lords and Ladies, White-eyed Divers, or Squeakers.



## OPEN SEASONS IN NEWFOUNDLAND AND LABRADOR (Murres/Turrs)

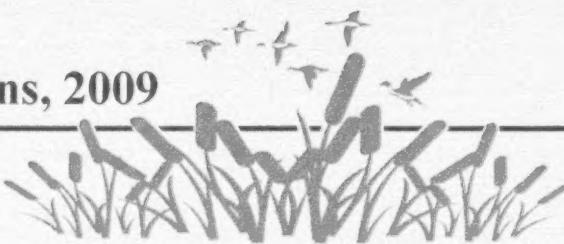
Area	Murres
Zone No. 1	September 1 to December 16
Zone No. 2	October 6 to January 20
Zone No. 3	November 25 to March 10
Zone No. 4	November 3 to January 10 and February 2 to March 10

## BAG AND POSSESSION LIMITS IN NEWFOUNDLAND AND LABRADOR (Murres/Turrs)

Limits	Murres
Daily bags	20
Possession	40

# Migratory Birds Hunting Regulations, 2009

## Summary



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Head of Enforcement  
Environment Canada  
17 Waterfowl Lane  
P.O. Box 6227  
Sackville, New Brunswick E4L 1G6  
Tel.: 506-364-5044  
Fax: 506-364-5062  
[www.ns.ec.gc.ca/wildlife/index.html](http://www.ns.ec.gc.ca/wildlife/index.html)

Check your permit and provincial regulations for additional restrictions.

For conservation purposes, the maximum daily bag of one Barrow's Goldeneye and maximum possession limit of two Barrow's Goldeneye was instituted in Prince Edward Island in 2007. The maximum daily bag limit of one bird would not make unintentional shooting illegal; however, it would ensure that legitimate hunters who did shoot one Barrow's Goldeneye would cease hunting for the day, or be aware that they would contravene regulations if they continued hunting and shot additional Barrow's Goldeneye. These regulations have been put in place to provide additional protection to this population, currently listed as a species of special concern in Schedule 1 (List of Wildlife Species at Risk) of the federal *Species at Risk Act*.

Waterfowl Heritage Day provides young hunters under the age of majority with the opportunity to practice hunting and outdoor skills, learn about wildlife conservation, and reinforce safety training in a structured, supervised environment before the season opens for other hunters. Licensed adult hunters who serve as mentors have an opportunity to pass on their considerable skills and knowledge by offering guidance and advice to younger hunters. The following rules are in effect:

- to participate, young hunters under the age of majority do not require the federal Migratory Game Bird Hunting Permit;
- young participants must comply with all existing safety and licensing requirements found in the *Firearms Act* and provincial hunting regulations;
- participants must be accompanied by a licensed mentor over the age of majority; and
- mentors may not hunt or carry a firearm, and may accompany no more than two young hunters.

Non-toxic shot must be used in **all** areas of Canada to hunt migratory game birds, except for woodcock, Band-tailed Pigeons, and Mourning Doves. Within National Wildlife Areas, the possession of lead shot is prohibited for all hunting, including the hunting of migratory birds and upland game birds. Hunters should consult provincial or territorial regulations for additional restrictions.

For those birds still hunted with lead shot, remove the lead shot before cooking whenever possible in order to reduce your exposure to contaminants. As well, remove the skin and fat from fish-eating birds before cooking them.

### HELPFUL TIP

Canadians may be exposed to avian-borne viruses when hunting or handling migratory birds and other wild game. Environment Canada recommends the following website, maintained by the Public Health Agency of Canada, for information about minimizing the risk of exposure:  
[www.phac-aspc.gc.ca/id-mi/index.html](http://www.phac-aspc.gc.ca/id-mi/index.html)

### CRIME STOPPERS

The Canadian Wildlife Service has joined forces with Prince Edward Island Crime Stoppers to address offences concerning migratory birds. Anyone wishing to report illegal hunting activities, illegal selling of birds, or other offences related to migratory birds is asked to call Crime Stoppers at 1-800-566-TIPS (8477). Your call is anonymous, and you may be eligible for a cash reward.

**OPEN SEASONS IN PRINCE EDWARD ISLAND (No open season for Harlequin Ducks)**

Area	Ducks (other than Harlequin Ducks) and Geese	Ducks (other than Common and Red-breasted Mergansers, Long-tailed Ducks, Harlequin Ducks, Eiders and Scoters), Snipe and Geese	Common and Red-breasted Mergansers, Long-tailed Ducks, Eiders and Scoters	Woodcock
Throughout the Province of Prince Edward Island	September 19 (Waterfowl Heritage Day)	October 5 to December 12	October 5 to December 31	September 28 to December 12

**BAG AND POSSESSION LIMITS IN PRINCE EDWARD ISLAND**

Limits	Ducks (other than Common and Red-breasted Mergansers, Long-tailed Ducks, Harlequin Ducks, Eiders and Scoters)	Common and Red-breasted Mergansers, Long-tailed Ducks, Eiders and Scoters	Geese	Woodcock	Snipe
Daily bags	6(a)	6(c)	5	8	10
Possession	12(b)	12(d)	10	16	20

(a) Not more than four may be Mallard-American Black Duck hybrids or American Black Ducks, and not more than one may be Barrow's Goldeneye.

(b) Not more than eight may be Mallard-American Black Duck hybrids or American Black Ducks, and not more than two may be Barrow's Goldeneye.

(c) Not more than four may be Scoters.

(d) Not more than eight may be Scoters.

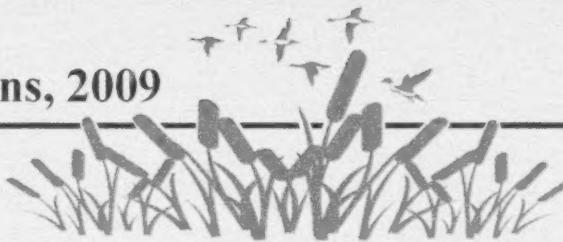
**Canada**

**REPORT YOUR MIGRATORY BIRD BANDS:  
CALL 1-800-327-BAND (2263) OR GO TO: [WWW.REPORTBAND.GOV](http://WWW.REPORTBAND.GOV)**



# Migratory Birds Hunting Regulations, 2009

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**Head of Enforcement**  
Environment Canada  
17 Waterfowl Lane  
P.O. Box 6227  
Sackville, New Brunswick E4L 1G6  
Tel.: 506-364-5044  
Fax: 506-364-5062  
[www.ns.ec.gc.ca/wildlife/index.html](http://www.ns.ec.gc.ca/wildlife/index.html)

Use of bait prior to and during the migratory bird hunting season is prohibited. Check your permit and provincial hunting regulations for additional restrictions, such as Sunday closures.

For conservation purposes, the maximum daily bag of one Barrow's Goldeneye and maximum possession limit of two Barrow's Goldeneye was instituted in Nova Scotia in 2007. The maximum daily bag limit of one bird would not make unintentional shooting illegal; however, it would ensure that legitimate hunters who did shoot one Barrow's Goldeneye would cease hunting for the day, or be aware that they would contravene regulations if they continued hunting and shot additional Barrow's Goldeneye. These regulations have been put in place to provide additional protection to this population, currently listed as a species of special concern in Schedule 1 (List of Wildlife Species at Risk) of the federal *Species at Risk Act*.

In National Wildlife Areas located in Nova Scotia, the following regulations apply. Refer to notices posted at entrances for area-specific rules.

- Vehicles, ATVs and snowmobiles are prohibited unless otherwise posted.
- Vegetation may not be cut or damaged. Fires are not permitted. Camping is not permitted.
- The construction and use of tree stands is prohibited.
- Domestic animals may not be allowed to run at large.
- Outboard motors greater than 9.9 horsepower are not permitted.

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- to participate, young hunters under the age of majority do not require the federal Migratory Game Bird Hunting Permit;
- young participants must comply with all existing safety and licensing requirements found in the *Firearms Act* and provincial hunting regulations;
- participants must be accompanied by a licensed mentor over the age of majority; and
- mentors may not hunt or carry a firearm, and may accompany no more than two young hunters.

Non-toxic shot must be used in **all** areas of Canada to hunt migratory game birds, except for woodcock, Band-tailed Pigeons, and Mourning Doves. Within National Wildlife Areas, the possession of lead shot is prohibited for all hunting, including the hunting of migratory birds and upland game birds. Hunters should consult provincial or territorial regulations for additional restrictions.

For those birds still hunted with lead shot, remove the lead shot before cooking whenever possible in order to reduce your exposure to contaminants. As well, remove the skin and fat from fish-eating birds before cooking them.

### HELPFUL TIP

Canadians may be exposed to avian-borne viruses when hunting or handling migratory birds and other wild game. Environment Canada recommends the following website, maintained by the Public Health Agency of Canada, for information about minimizing the risk of exposure: [www.phac-aspc.gc.ca/id-mi/index.html](http://www.phac-aspc.gc.ca/id-mi/index.html)

### CRIME STOPPERS

Hunting violations may be reported to the CWS office, your local RCMP detachment, Nova Scotia Department of Natural Resources at 1-800-565-2224, or Crime Stoppers at 1-800-422-8477.

### OPEN SEASONS IN NOVA SCOTIA (No open season for Harlequin Ducks)

Area	Ducks (other than Harlequin Ducks) and geese WATERFOWLER HERITAGE DAY	Additional seasons for Common and Red-breasted mergansers	Additional seasons for Long-tailed Ducks*, ciders, and scoters in coastal waters only	Additional seasons for scaup, goldeneyes, and Buffleheads	Geese	Woodcock and snipe
Zone No. 1*	Sept. 19	Oct. 1 to Dec. 31	No additional season	No additional season	Oct. 1 to Dec. 31	Oct. 1 to Nov. 30
Zone No. 2*	Sept. 19	Oct. 8 to Dec. 31	Oct. 1 to Oct. 7 and Jan. 1 to Jan. 7 (in coastal waters only)	Oct. 1 to Oct. 7 and Jan. 1 to Jan. 7	Jan. 1 to Jan. 7	Oct. 8 to Jan. 15 Oct. 1 to Nov. 30
Zone No. 3*	Sept. 19	Oct. 8 to Dec. 31	Jan. 1 to Jan. 7	No additional season	Jan. 1 to Jan. 7	Oct. 8 to Jan. 15 Oct. 1 to Nov. 30

\* "Zone No. 1" means the counties of Antigonish, Pictou, Colchester, Cumberland, Hants, Kings, and Annapolis.

"Zone No. 2" means the counties of Digby, Yarmouth, Shelburne, Queens, Lunenburg, Halifax, Guysborough, Cape Breton, Victoria, Inverness, and Richmond, except the area described under Zone 3.

"Zone No. 3" means Bras d'Or Lake and all waters draining into Bras d'Or Lake including waters on the lake side of the highway bridge on Great Bras d'Or at Seal Islands (Highway No. 105), at St. Peters on St. Peters Inlet (Highway No. 4), and at Bras d'Or on St. Andrews Channel (Highway No. 105).

\*\* Long-tailed Duck is the current name for Oldsquaw.

### BAG AND POSSESSION LIMITS IN NOVA SCOTIA

Limits	Ducks (other than Common and Red-breasted mergansers, Long-tailed Ducks*, Harlequin Ducks, ciders, and scoters)	Common and Red-breasted mergansers, Long-tailed Ducks*, ciders, and scoters	Geese	Woodcock	Snipe
Daily bags	6(a)	5	5	8	10
Possession	12(b)	10	10	16	20

(a) Not more than four may be American Black Ducks, and not more than one may be Barrow's Goldeneye.

(b) Not more than eight may be American Black Ducks, and not more than two may be Barrow's Goldeneye.

\* Long-tailed Duck is the current name for Oldsquaw.

**Canada**

**REPORT YOUR MIGRATORY BIRD BANDS:  
CALL 1-800-327-BAND (2263) OR GO TO: [WWW.REPORTBAND.GOV](http://WWW.REPORTBAND.GOV)**



# Migratory Birds Hunting Regulations, 2009

## Summary



Watch for this loon on  
blue signs marking  
National Wildlife Areas  
and Migratory Bird Sanctuaries.



The information presented here is a summary of the law. For complete information regarding fines, general prohibitions, permitted methods of hunting and equipment, the requirement to have adequate means to retrieve birds immediately, restrictions on the use of bait, description of hunting zones, and other regulations, you may contact:

**Head of Enforcement**  
Environment Canada  
17 Waterfowl Lane  
P.O. Box 6227  
Sackville, New Brunswick E4L 1G6  
Tel.: 506-364-5044  
Fax: 506-364-5062  
[www.ns.ec.gc.ca/wildlife/index.html](http://www.ns.ec.gc.ca/wildlife/index.html)

Check your permit and provincial hunting regulations for additional restrictions, such as Sunday closures, the 1:00 p.m. closure for Tabusintac and Tracadie lagoons, the requirement to use a dog while hunting woodcock during September, etc.

For conservation purposes, the maximum daily bag of one Barrow's Goldeneye and maximum possession limit of two Barrow's Goldeneye was instituted in New Brunswick in 2007. The maximum daily bag limit of one bird would not make unintentional shooting illegal; however, it would ensure that legitimate hunters who did shoot one Barrow's Goldeneye would cease hunting for the day, or be aware that they would contravene regulations if they continued hunting and shot additional Barrow's Goldeneye. These regulations have been put in place to provide additional protection to this population, currently listed as a species of special concern in Schedule 1 (List of Wildlife Species at Risk) of the federal *Species at Risk Act*.

In National Wildlife Areas located in New Brunswick, the following regulations apply. Refer to notices posted at entrances for area-specific rules.

- Vehicles, ATVs and snowmobiles are prohibited unless otherwise posted.
- Vegetation may not be cut or damaged. Fires are not permitted. Camping is not permitted.
- The construction and use of tree stands is prohibited.
- Domestic animals may not be allowed to run at large.
- Outboard motors greater than 9.9 horsepower are not permitted.

Waterfowl Heritage Day provides young hunters under the age of majority with the opportunity to practice hunting and outdoor skills, learn about wildlife conservation, and reinforce safety training in a structured, supervised environment. Licensed adult hunters who serve as mentors have an opportunity to pass on their considerable skills and knowledge by offering guidance and advice to younger hunters. The following rules are in effect:

- to participate, young hunters under the age of majority do not require the federal Migratory Game Bird Hunting Permit;
- young participants must comply with all existing safety and licensing requirements found in the *Firearms Act* and provincial hunting regulations;
- participants must be accompanied by a licensed mentor over the age of majority; and
- mentors may not hunt or carry a firearm, and may accompany no more than two young hunters.

Non-toxic shot must be used in **all** areas of Canada to hunt migratory game birds, except for woodcock, Band-tailed Pigeons, and Mourning Doves. Within National Wildlife Areas, the possession of lead shot is prohibited for all hunting, including the hunting of migratory birds and upland game birds. Hunters should consult provincial or territorial regulations for additional restrictions.

For those birds still hunted with lead shot, remove the lead shot before cooking whenever possible in order to reduce your exposure to contaminants. As well, remove the skin and fat from fish-eating birds before cooking them.

### HELPFUL TIP

Canadians may be exposed to avian-borne viruses when hunting or handling migratory birds and other wild game. Environment Canada recommends the following website, maintained by the Public Health Agency of Canada, for information about minimizing the risk of exposure:  
[www.phac-aspc.gc.ca/id-mi/index.html](http://www.phac-aspc.gc.ca/id-mi/index.html)

### Hunting Zones

#### Zone No. 1

Saint John County south of No. 1 Highway and west of Saint John Harbour, that part of Charlotte County lying south of No. 1 Highway, and the Grand Manan Islands and Campobello Island, except the following area, which is closed to hunting: the area in the Bay of Fundy known as The Wolves, including the surrounding waters.

#### Zone No. 2

The remainder of the Province of New Brunswick, except the following, which are closed to hunting: the estuary of the Tabusintac River, Bathurst Basin and most of Bathurst Harbour (two islands remain open and signs have been posted to indicate their locations), and the Dalhousie shoreline from the eastern tip of Dalhousie Island to the mouth of the Miller Brook and extending one kilometre offshore.

### CRIME STOPPERS

The Canadian Wildlife Service has joined forces with New Brunswick Crime Stoppers to address offences concerning migratory birds. Anyone wishing to report illegal hunting activities, illegal selling of birds, or other offences related to migratory birds is asked to call Crime Stoppers at 1-800-222-TIPS (8477). Your call is anonymous, and you may be eligible for a cash reward.

### OPEN SEASONS IN NEW BRUNSWICK (No open season for Harlequin Ducks)

Area	Ducks (other than Harlequin Ducks) and geese WATERFOWLER HERITAGE DAY	Ducks (other than Harlequin Ducks), geese (other than Canada Geese and Cackling Geese), and snipe	Canada Geese and Cackling Geese	Additional season for Common and Red-breasted mergansers, Long-tailed Ducks*, eiders and scoters in coastal waters only	Woodcock
Zone No. 1	Sept. 19	Oct. 15 to Jan. 4	Sept. 8 to Sept. 18(a) and Oct. 15 to Jan. 4	Feb. 1 to Feb. 24	Sept. 15 to Nov. 30
Zone No. 2	Sept. 19	Oct. 1 to Dec. 18	Sept. 8 to Sept. 18(a) and Oct. 1 to Dec. 18	No additional season	Sept. 15 to Nov. 30

(a) In Zone No. 1 and Zone No. 2, hunting for Canada Geese and Cackling Geese is allowed only on farmland.

\* Long-tailed Duck is the current name for Oldsquaw.

### BAG AND POSSESSION LIMITS IN NEW BRUNSWICK

Limits	Ducks (other than Common and Red-breasted mergansers, Long-tailed Ducks*, Harlequin Ducks, eiders, and scoters)	Common and Red-breasted mergansers, Long-tailed Ducks*, eiders, and scoters	Geese	Woodcock	Snipe
Daily bags	6(a)	6(c)	5(e)	8	10
Possession	12(b)	12(d)	10(e)	16	20

(a) Not more than three may be American Black Ducks, and not more than one may be Barrow's Goldeneye.

(b) Not more than six may be American Black Ducks, and not more than two may be Barrow's Goldeneye.

(c) Not more than four may be scoters, and in Zone No. 1 from February 1 to February 24, not more than four eiders may be taken daily.

(d) Not more than eight may be scoters, and in Zone No. 1 from February 1 to February 24, not more than eight eiders may be possessed.

(e) A total of three additional Canada Geese or Cackling Geese, or any combination of them, may be taken daily and a total of six additional Canada Geese or Cackling Geese, or any combination of them, may be possessed from September 8 to September 18 inclusive.

\* Long-tailed Duck is the current name for Oldsquaw.

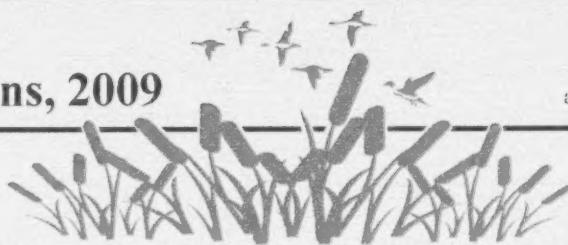
# Canada

REPORT YOUR MIGRATORY BIRD BANDS:  
CALL 1-800-327-BAND (2263) OR GO TO: [WWW.REPORTBAND.GOV](http://WWW.REPORTBAND.GOV)



# Migratory Birds Hunting Regulations, 2009

## Summary



Watch for this loon on  
blue signs marking  
National Wildlife Areas  
and Migratory Bird Sanctuaries.\*



\*In Quebec, these signs also  
identify no-hunting zones.

The information presented here is a summary of the legislation. For complete information on fines, general prohibitions, permitted hunting methods and equipment, the retrieval of birds, description of hunting districts and non-hunting areas, contact:

Canadian Wildlife Service  
1141 Route de l'Église  
P.O. Box 10100  
Sainte-Foy, Quebec G1V 4H5  
Tel.: 1-800-668-6767  
Fax: 418-649-6475  
[www.qc.ec.gc.ca/faune/faune.html](http://www.qc.ec.gc.ca/faune/faune.html)

A provincial hunting permit for small game is required to hunt migratory birds in Quebec. While hunting, it is obligatory for hunters to carry their permits with them. Hunters interested in participating in a possible conservation harvest of Snow Geese next spring should keep their 2009 federal permits.

Non-residents of Canada hunting woodcock have a lower daily bag limit than Canadian hunters.

Waterfowl Heritage Days provide young hunters under the age of majority with the opportunity to practice hunting skills, learn about wildlife conservation, and reinforce safety training in a structured, supervised environment before the season opens for other hunters. Licensed adult hunters who serve as mentors have an opportunity to pass on their considerable skills and knowledge by offering guidance and advice to younger hunters. The following rules are in effect:

- to participate, young hunters under the age of majority do not require the federal Migratory Game Bird Hunting Permit;
- young participants must comply with all existing safety and licensing requirements found in the *Firearms Act* and provincial hunting regulations;
- participants must be accompanied by a licensed mentor over the age of majority; and
- mentors may not hunt or carry a firearm, and may accompany no more than two young hunters.

Non-toxic shot must be used in **all** areas of Canada to hunt migratory game birds, except for woodcock. Within National Wildlife Areas, the possession of lead shot is prohibited for all hunting, including the hunting of migratory birds and upland game birds.

For those birds still hunted with lead shot, remove the lead shot before cooking whenever possible in order to reduce your exposure to contaminants. As well, remove the skin and fat from fish-eating birds before cooking them.

### NOTE

In district F, please note that Route 155 and Highway 55 are the boundary line for the different daily bag and possession for Black Ducks. Hunters may obtain useful information on the Barrow's Goldeneye, especially on ways to tell this species apart from the Common Goldeneye, at the following web site: [www.qc.ec.gc.ca/faune/chasse/html/BarrowsGoldeneye.html](http://www.qc.ec.gc.ca/faune/chasse/html/BarrowsGoldeneye.html)

The opening hunting date for ducks is September 12 for districts B, C, D and F; September 19 for the new district F; and September 26 for the new district G.

### RECOMMENDATION

Canadians can be exposed to avian-borne viruses when hunting or handling migratory birds and other wild game. Environment Canada recommends the following website, maintained by the Public Health Agency of Canada, for information about minimizing the risk of exposure: [www.phac-aspc.gc.ca/id-mi/index.html](http://www.phac-aspc.gc.ca/id-mi/index.html)

## OPEN SEASONS IN QUEBEC (No open season for Harlequin Ducks or rails)

Area	Waterfowl Heritage Days	Ducks (other than eiders, Harlequin Ducks and Long-tailed Ducks), geese, woodcock and snipe	Canada Geese and Cackling Geese and Snow Geese) and snipe	Eiders and Long-tailed Ducks	Coots and gallinules	Woodcock
A	N/A	Sept. 1 to Dec. 10	Sept. 1 to Dec. 10	Sept. 1 to Dec. 10	No open season	Sept. 1 to Dec. 10
B	Sept. 5	Sept. 12 to Dec. 24	Sept. 12 to Dec. 26	Oct. 1 to Jan. 14(b)	No open season	Sept. 12 to Dec. 26
C, D and E	Sept. 5	Sept. 12 to Dec. 24(c)	Sept. 1 to Sept. 11(a) Sept. 12 to Dec. 16	Sept. 12 to Dec. 26	No open season	Sept. 19 to Dec. 26
F	Sept. 12(d)	Sept. 19 to Dec. 23(c)	Sept. 6 to Sept. 18(a) Sept. 19 to Dec. 21	Sept. 19 to Jan. 2	Sept. 19 to Jan. 2	Sept. 19 to Jan. 2
G	Sept. 19	Sept. 26 to Dec. 26	Sept. 26 to Dec. 26	Nov. 1 to Feb. 14	No open season	Sept. 26 to Dec. 26

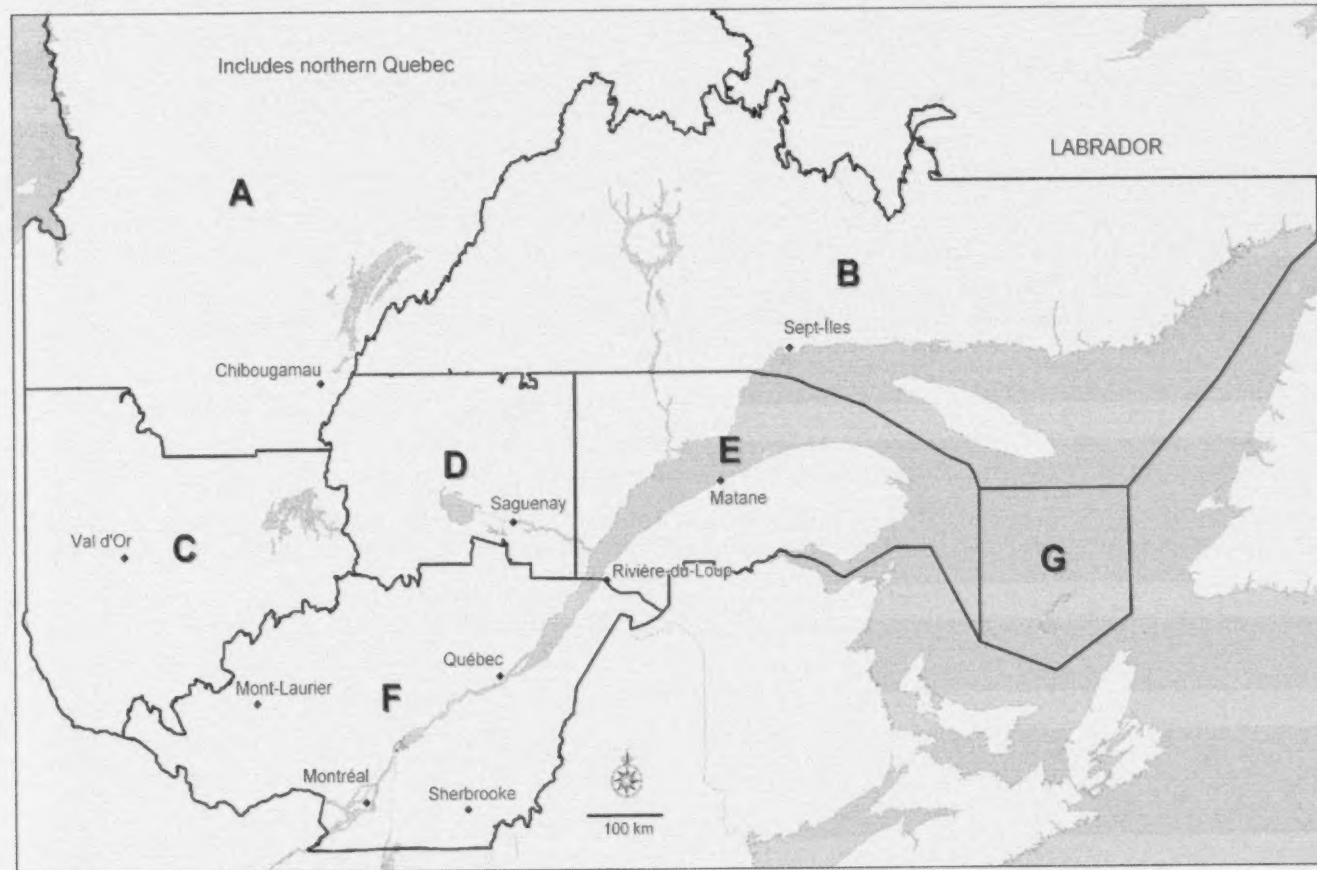
(a) In Districts C, D, E and F, hunting for Canada Geese and Cackling Geese is allowed only on farmland.

(b) In District B along the North Shore west of the Natashquan River, the hunting seasons for eiders and Long-tailed Ducks are from October 1 to October 24 inclusive and from November 15 to February 5 inclusive.

(c) In District E, the hunting season for Barrow's Goldeneyes and Common Goldeneyes closes on October 21 in Provincial Hunting Zone 21 and 100 metres beyond this zone. In District F, the hunting season for Barrow's Goldeneyes and Common Goldeneyes closes on October 21 between Pointe Jureux (St. Irénée) and Gros Cap à l'Aigle (St. Fidèle) from routes 362 and 138 to 2 kilometres within Provincial Hunting Zone 21.

(d) In District F, hunting for coots and gallinules is allowed during Waterfowl Heritage Day.

### Hunting Districts



## BAG AND POSSESSION LIMITS IN QUEBEC

Limits	Ducks	Geese (other than Snow Geese)	Snow Geese	Coots and gallinules	Woodcock	Snipe
Daily bags	6(a)(b)(c)(f)	5(d)(f)	20(f)	4(f)	8(e)(f)	10(f)
Possession	12(a)(b)(c)(f)	20	60	8	16	20

(a) Not more than four American Black Ducks may be taken daily, with a possession limit of eight in Districts A, B, C, D, E, F (east of Route 155 and Highway 55) and G  
 (b) Not more than two American Black Ducks may be taken daily, with a possession limit of four in District F (west of Route 155 and Highway 55). Beginning on November 1st, not more than four American Black Ducks may be taken daily, with a possession limit of eight in District F (only lying east of the Gatineau River)  
 (c) Not more than one Barrow's Goldeneye or Blue-winged Teal may be taken daily, with a possession limit of two.  
 (d) Not more than 10 Canada Geese, Cackling Geese or any combination of the two may be taken daily between September 1 and 25  
 (e) For non-residents of Canada, not more than four woodcock may be taken daily.  
 (f) Not more than three birds in total may be taken on Waterfowl Heritage Days. The additional species restrictions described in paragraphs (b) and (c) continue to apply within this limit.

The Migratory Birds Regulations also provide for special conservation periods when hunters may take overabundant species. Please note that the additional hunting methods or equipment are permitted **only** during the special conservation periods. See the table below for details. Hunters interested in participating in a possible conservation harvest of Snow Geese next spring should keep their 2009 federal permits.

## MEASURES IN QUEBEC CONCERNING OVERABUNDANT SPECIES

Area	Period during which Snow Geese may be killed	Additional hunting method or equipment
District A	May 1 to June 30 and September 1 to December 10	Recorded bird calls(d)(f)
District B	September 12 to December 26	Recorded bird calls(d)(f)
Districts C and D	April 1 to May 31(a), September 1 to September 11(a), and September 12 to December 26	Recorded bird calls(d)(f)
District E	April 1 to May 31(a), September 1 to September 11(a), and September 12 to December 26	Recorded bird calls(d)(f) and bait or bait crop area(e)
District F	April 1 to May 31(a)(b)(c), September 6 to September 18(a), and September 19 to January 2	Recorded bird calls(d)(f) and bait or bait crop area(e)
District G	September 26 to December 26	Recorded bird calls(d)(f)

(a) Hunting and hunting equipment are allowed only on farmland.  
 (b) In District F, no person shall hunt south of the St. Lawrence River and north of the road right-of-way of Route 132 between the western limit of the municipality of Montmagny and the eastern limit of the municipality of Cap-Saint-Ignace.  
 (c) In District F, on the north shore of the St. Lawrence River, no person shall hunt north of the St. Lawrence River and south of a line located at 1 000 m north of Highway 40 between Montée St-Laurent and the Maskinongé River. On the south shore of the St. Lawrence River, no person shall hunt south of the St. Lawrence River and north of the railroad right-of-way located near Route 132 between the Nicolet River in the east and Lacerte Road in the west.  
 (d) "Recorded bird calls" refers to bird calls of a species referred to in the heading of column 2.  
 (e) Hunting with bait or in a bait crop area is permitted if the Regional Director has given consent in writing pursuant to section 23.3.  
 (f) If decoys are used when hunting with recorded Snow Goose calls, the decoys must represent only white phase Snow Geese in adult or juvenile plumage (white or gray).

**Canada**

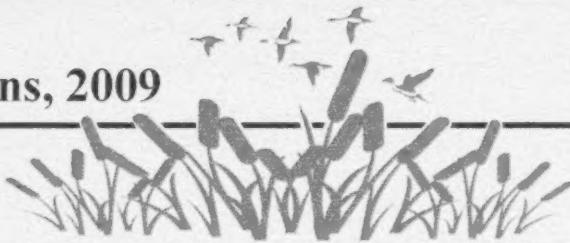
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# Migratory Birds

## Hunting Regulations, 2009

### Summary



Watch for this loon on  
blue signs marking  
National Wildlife Areas  
and Migratory Bird Sanctuaries.



The information presented here is a summary of the law. For complete information on fines, general prohibitions, permitted hunting methods and equipment, the need to retrieve birds, restrictions on using bait, description of hunting districts, and other restrictions on hunting, contact:

**Enforcement Coordinator**  
Environment Canada  
867 Lakeshore Road  
P.O. Box 5050  
Burlington, Ontario L7R 4A6  
Tel.: 905-336-6410  
[www.on.ec.gc.ca/wildlife\\_e.html](http://www.on.ec.gc.ca/wildlife_e.html)

Check your permit and provincial regulations for additional restrictions.

Note that south of the French and Mattawa Rivers, Sunday gun hunting is permitted by provincial regulations in some municipalities, but not all. Season dates for Canada Geese and Cackling Geese in the Southern District may differ between municipalities where Sunday gun hunting is permitted and those where it is not. Hunters should consult the provincial regulations for information about Wildlife Management Unit boundaries and a list of municipalities where Sunday gun hunting is permitted.

Non-toxic shot must be used in **all** areas of Canada to hunt migratory game birds, except for woodcock, Band-tailed Pigeons, and Mourning Doves. Within National Wildlife Areas, the possession of lead shot is prohibited for all hunting, including the hunting of migratory birds and upland game birds. Hunters should consult provincial or territorial regulations for additional restrictions.

For those birds still hunted with lead shot, remove the lead shot before cooking whenever possible in order to reduce your exposure to contaminants. As well, remove the skin and fat from fish-eating birds before cooking them.

#### HELPFUL TIP

Canadians may be exposed to avian-borne viruses when hunting or handling migratory birds and other wild game. Environment Canada recommends the following website, maintained by the Public Health Agency of Canada, for information about minimizing the risk of exposure: [www.phac-aspc.gc.ca/id-mi/index.html](http://www.phac-aspc.gc.ca/id-mi/index.html)



#### Hunting Districts

##### 1. Hudson-James Bay District

Wildlife Management Units 1A, 1B, and the portions of Wildlife Management Units 1D, 25, and 26 lying east of longitude 83°45' and north of latitude 51°

##### 2. Northern District

Wildlife Management Unit 1C, those parts of 1D, 25, and 26 lying west of longitude 83°45' and south of latitude 51°, and Wildlife Management Units 2 to 24, 27 to 41, and 45

##### 3. Central District

Wildlife Management Units 42 to 44 and 46 to 59

##### 4. Southern District

Wildlife Management Units 60A and 61 to 95

## OPEN SEASONS IN ONTARIO (No open season for Harlequin Ducks)

Area	Ducks (other than Harlequin Ducks), rails (other than Yellow Rails and King Rails), Common Moorhens, American Coots, Common Snipe, and geese (other than Canada Geese and Cackling Geese)	Canada Geese and Cackling Geese	Woodcock
1. Hudson-James Bay District	Sept. 1 to Dec. 16	Sept. 1 to Dec. 16	Sept. 1 to Dec. 15
2. Northern District	Sept. 10 to Dec. 25(a)	Sept. 1 to Dec. 16	Sept. 15 to Dec. 15
3. Central District	Sept. 19 to Jan. 3(b)	Sept. 8 to Dec. 23	Sept. 20 to Dec. 20
4. Southern District	Sept. 26 to Jan. 10(c)	Sept. 10 to Sept. 20(f)(g), Sept. 26 to Dec. 30(d), Sept. 26 to Jan. 8(e)(g), Feb. 27 to March 6(e)(g)(h)	Sept. 25 to Dec. 20

(a) Except for American Black Ducks for which the open season is from September 10 to December 15 inclusive.

(b) Except for American Black Ducks for which the open season is from September 19 to December 20 inclusive.

(c) Except for American Black Ducks for which the open season is from September 26 to December 20 inclusive.

(d) In municipalities where Sunday gun hunting is permitted.

(e) In municipalities where Sunday gun hunting is not permitted.

(f) Excluding that part of the Township of South Walsingham, south of County Road 42, which includes Long Point.

(g) No person shall hunt Canada Geese or Cackling Geese by any means on Sundays during the hunting season in municipalities where Sunday hunting with a gun is not permitted by provincial regulations.

(h) Except in Wildlife Management Unit 94.

## BAG AND POSSESSION LIMITS IN ONTARIO

Limits	Ducks (other than Harlequin Ducks)	Canada Geese and Cackling Geese	White-fronted Geese and Brant	Snow Geese	Rails (other than Yellow Rails and King Rails), American Coots, Common Snipe, and Common Moorhens	Woodcock
Daily bags	6(a)(b)(c)(d)	5(e)(f)(g)(h)(i)	5	10	10	8
Possession	12(a)(b)(c)(d)	24	10	40	20	16

(a) Not more than one American Black Duck may be taken daily and not more than two American Black Ducks may be possessed in Central and Southern districts and not more than two American Black Ducks may be taken daily and not more than four American Black Ducks may be possessed in Hudson-James Bay and Northern districts.

(b) Not more than four Canvasbacks may be taken daily and not more than eight Canvasbacks may be possessed.

(c) Not more than four Redheads may be taken daily and not more than eight Redheads may be possessed.

(d) Not more than one Barrow's Goldeneye may be taken daily and not more than two Barrow's Goldeneye may be possessed.

(e) A total of not more than three Canada Geese or Cackling Geese, or any combination of these, may be taken daily in that portion of Wildlife Management Unit 1D in Hudson-James Bay District, and in Wildlife Management Units 23 to 31 and 37 to 41 from September 10 to December 16.

(f) A total of not more than two Canada Geese or Cackling Geese, or any combination of these, may be taken daily in Wildlife Management Unit 94 from September 26 to January 8.

(g) A total of not more than three Canada Geese or Cackling Geese, or any combination of these, may be taken daily in Wildlife Management Units 82 to 86 and 93 from September 26 to October 31.

(h) A total of five additional Canada Geese or Cackling Geese, or any combination of these, may be taken daily in Wildlife Management Units 36 and 45 from September 1 to September 9; in Wildlife Management Units 42 to 44 and 46 to 59 from September 8 to September 18; in Wildlife Management Units 60 to 81, 87 to 92 and 95 from September 10 to September 20, and in municipalities where Sunday gun hunting is not permitted in Wildlife Management Units 60 to 81 and 87 to 92, from February 27 to March 6.

(i) A total of three additional Canada Geese or Cackling Geese, or any combination of these, may be taken daily in Wildlife Management Units 82 to 86, 93 and 94 from September 10 to September 20 and in municipalities where Sunday gun hunting is not permitted in Wildlife Management Units 82 to 86 and 93 from February 27 to March 6.

# Canada

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# Migratory Birds Hunting Regulations, 2009

## Summary



Watch for this loon on  
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National Wildlife Areas  
and Migratory Bird Sanctuaries.



The information presented here is a summary of the law. For complete information on fines, general prohibitions, permitted hunting methods and equipment, the need to retrieve birds, restrictions on using bait, description of hunting zones, and other restrictions on hunting, contact:

**Wildlife Enforcement Coordinator**  
**Environment Canada**  
 Suite 150  
 123 Main Street  
 Winnipeg, Manitoba R3C 4W2  
 Tel.: 204-983-5263

[www.mb.ec.gc.ca/nature/migratorybirds/dc00s06.en.html](http://www.mb.ec.gc.ca/nature/migratorybirds/dc00s06.en.html)

Check your permit and provincial regulations for additional restrictions.

Waterfowl Heritage Days provide young hunters under the age of majority with the opportunity to practice hunting and outdoor skills, learn about wildlife conservation, and reinforce safety training in a structured, supervised environment before the season opens for other hunters. Licensed adult hunters who serve as mentors have an opportunity to pass on their considerable skills and knowledge by offering guidance and advice to younger hunters. The following rules are in effect:

- to participate, young hunters under the age of majority do not require the federal Migratory Game Bird Hunting Permit;
- young participants must comply with all existing safety and licensing requirements found in the *Firearms Act* and provincial hunting regulations;
- participants must be accompanied by a licensed mentor over the age of majority; and
- mentors may not hunt or carry a firearm, and may accompany no more than two young hunters.

Non-toxic shot must be used to hunt migratory birds in **all** areas of Canada. Within National Wildlife Areas, the possession of lead shot is prohibited for all hunting, including the hunting of migratory birds and upland game birds. Hunters should consult provincial or territorial regulations for additional restrictions.

### HELPFUL TIP

Canadians may be exposed to avian-borne viruses when hunting or handling migratory birds and other wild game. Environment Canada recommends the following website, maintained by the Public Health Agency of Canada, for information about minimizing the risk of exposure:  
[www.phac-aspc.gc.ca/id-mi/index.html](http://www.phac-aspc.gc.ca/id-mi/index.html)

### Game Bird Hunting Zones



### OPEN SEASONS IN MANITOBA

Game Bird Hunting Zone	Ducks and geese WATERFOWLER HERITAGE DAYS	Ducks, geese, coots, and snipe RESIDENTS OF CANADA	Ducks, Canada Geese, Cackling Geese, coots, and snipe NON-RESIDENTS OF CANADA	Sandhill Cranes RESIDENTS OF CANADA AND NON-RESIDENTS OF CANADA	Snow and Ross's geese NON-RESIDENTS OF CANADA
Zone No. 1	N/A	Sept. 1 to Oct. 31(b)	Sept. 1 to Oct. 31	No open season	Sept. 1 to Oct. 31(b)
Zone No. 2	Sept. 1 to Sept. 7	Sept. 8 to Nov. 30(b)	Sept. 8 to Nov. 30	Sept. 1 to Nov. 30(a)	Sept. 8 to Nov. 30(b)
Zone No. 3	Sept. 1 to Sept. 7	Sept. 8 to Nov. 30(b)	Sept. 28 to Nov. 30	Sept. 1 to Nov. 30	Sept. 21 to Nov. 30(b)
Zone No. 4	Sept. 1 to Sept. 7	Sept. 8 to Nov. 30(b)	Sept. 28 to Nov. 30	Sept. 1 to Nov. 30	Sept. 21 to Nov. 30(b)

(a) In provincial Game Hunting Areas (GHAs) 6 and 6A only.

(b) Snow Goose call recordings may be used but, if used with decoys, the decoys may only represent white or blue phase Snow Geese, or any combination of them.

## BAG AND POSSESSION LIMITS IN MANITOBA

Limits	Ducks RESIDENTS OF CANADA	Ducks NON-RESIDENTS OF CANADA	White geese (Snow and Ross's geese)	Dark geese (Canada, Cackling, and White- fronted geese, and Brant)	Sandhill Cranes	Coots	Snipe
Daily bags	8(a)	8(c)	20	5	5	8	10
Possession	16(b)	16(d)	80	15	10	16	20

(a) In Zone 4 for residents, not more than four may be Redheads or Canvasbacks in total.  
 (b) In Zone 4 for residents, not more than eight may be Redheads or Canvasbacks in total.  
 (c) In Zone 4 for non-residents, not more than two may be Redheads or Canvasbacks in total.  
 (d) In Zone 4 for non-residents, not more than four may be Redheads or Canvasbacks in total.

### NOTE

The open season for hunting geese by non-residents of Canada in Game Bird Hunting Zone 4, and the Provincial Game Hunting Areas 13A, 14, 14A, all that portion of Game Hunting Area 16 south of the north limit of township 33, Game Hunting Areas 18, 18A, 18B, 18C, 19, 19A, 19B, 20, 21A, 23A, and 25 as described in Manitoba Regulation 220/86 as filed on September 25, 1986, includes only that part of each day from one half-hour before sunrise to 12:00 noon, local time, from the opening date (fourth Monday of September) up to and including the second Sunday of October, and thereafter geese may be hunted from one half-hour before sunrise until one half-hour after sunset. However, during the first week of the non-resident Snow and Ross's goose season (beginning on the third Monday of September), these species may be hunted from one half-hour before sunrise until one half-hour after sunset.

The Migratory Birds Regulations also provide for special conservation periods when hunters may take overabundant species. Please note that additional hunting methods or equipment are permitted during the special conservation periods. See the table below for details.

### NOTE

Hunters interested in participating in a possible conservation harvest of Snow Geese next spring should keep their 2009 federal permits.

## MEASURES IN MANITOBA CONCERNING OVERABUNDANT SPECIES

Area	Period during which Snow Geese may be killed	Additional hunting method or equipment
Zone 1	April 1 to May 31 and August 15 to August 31	Recorded bird calls(a)(b)
Zones 2, 3, and 4	April 1 to May 31	Recorded bird calls(a)(b)

(a) "Recorded bird calls" refers to the Snow Goose call.  
 (b) Snow Goose call recordings may be used for the purpose of hunting Snow Geese. If those recordings are used with decoys, the decoys must represent white or blue phase Snow Geese, or any combination of them only.

Canada

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 CALL 1-800-327-BAND (2263) OR GO TO: [WWW.REPORTBAND.GOV](http://WWW.REPORTBAND.GOV)



# Migratory Birds Hunting Regulations, 2009

## Summary



Watch for this loon on  
blue signs marking  
National Wildlife Areas  
and Migratory Bird Sanctuaries.



The information presented here is a summary of the law. For complete information on fines, general prohibitions, permitted hunting methods and equipment, the need to retrieve birds, restrictions on using bait, description of hunting districts, and other restrictions on hunting, contact:

### Wildlife Enforcement Coordinator

Environment Canada  
115 Perimeter Road  
Saskatoon, Saskatchewan S7N 0X4

Tel.: 306-975-4919

[www.mb.ec.gc.ca/nature/migratorybirds/dc00s06.en.html](http://www.mb.ec.gc.ca/nature/migratorybirds/dc00s06.en.html)

Check your permit and provincial regulations for additional restrictions.

Non-toxic shot must be used to hunt migratory birds in **all** areas of Canada. Within National Wildlife Areas, the possession of lead shot is prohibited for all hunting, including the hunting of migratory birds and upland game birds. Hunters should consult provincial or territorial regulations for additional restrictions.

### NOTE

Hunters interested in participating in a possible conservation harvest of Snow Geese next spring should keep their 2009 federal permits.

### HELPFUL TIP

Canadians may be exposed to avian-borne viruses when hunting or handling migratory birds and other wild game. Environment Canada recommends the following website, maintained by the Public Health Agency of Canada, for information about minimizing the risk of exposure:  
[www.phac-aspc.gc.ca/id-mi/index.html](http://www.phac-aspc.gc.ca/id-mi/index.html)

### OPEN SEASONS IN SASKATCHEWAN

District	Ducks, coots, and snipe	Geese		White geese (Snow and Ross's geese) NON-RESIDENTS OF CANADA	Dark geese (Canada, Cackling, and White-fronted geese) NON-RESIDENTS OF CANADA	Sandhill Cranes
		RESIDENTS OF CANADA	NON-RESIDENTS OF CANADA			
No. 1 (North)	Sept. 1 to Dec. 16	Sept. 1 to Dec. 16(d)	Sept. 1 to Dec. 16(d)	Sept. 1 to Dec. 16(d)	Sept. 1 to Dec. 16	Sept. 1 to Dec. 16
No. 2 (South)	Sept. 1 to Dec. 16(a)	Sept. 1 to Dec. 16(b)(d)	Sept. 1 to Dec. 16(d)	Sept. 1 to Dec. 16(d)	Sept. 10 to Dec. 16	Sept. 1 to Dec. 16(c)

(a) Falconry season is open from September 1 to December 16 inclusive.

(b) Except White-fronted Geese; the season for residents of Canada for White-fronted Geese is from September 10 to December 16 inclusive.

(c) The Last Mountain Lake National Wildlife Area is closed to all Sandhill Crane hunting.

(d) Snow Goose call recordings may be used but, if used with decoys, the decoys may only represent white or blue phase Snow Geese, or any combination of them.

### NOTE

The open season for geese for residents and non-residents of Canada in District No. 2 (South), and the Provincial Wildlife Management Zones 43, 47 to 59 inclusive, and 67 to 69 inclusive, of District No. 1 (North), includes only that part of each day from one half-hour before sunrise to 12:00 noon, local time, from September 1 to October 14, inclusive, and on and after October 15 geese may be hunted from one half-hour before sunrise until one half-hour after sunset, except east of 106 degrees west longitude, where, on and after September 1, white geese (Snow and Ross's geese) may be hunted from one half-hour before sunrise until one half-hour after sunset. Last Mountain Lake National Wildlife Area is closed to all hunting until September 20.

## BAG AND POSSESSION LIMITS IN SASKATCHEWAN

Limits	Ducks	White geese (Snow and Ross's geese)	Dark Geese (Canada, Cackling, and White-fronted geese)	Sandhill Cranes	Coots	Snipe
Daily bags	8(a)	20	8(c)	5	10	10
Possession	16(b)	60	16(d)	10	20	20

(a) Not more than three may be Northern Pintails.

(b) Not more than six may be Northern Pintails.

(c) For residents of Canada, not more than four may be White-fronted Geese. For non-residents of Canada, not more than three may be White-fronted Geese.

(d) For residents of Canada, not more than eight may be White-fronted Geese. For non-residents of Canada, not more than six may be White-fronted Geese.

## MEASURES IN SASKATCHEWAN CONCERNING OVERABUNDANT SPECIES

Area	Period during which Snow Geese may be killed	Additional hunting method or equipment
East of 106°W longitude	April 1 to May 31	Recorded bird calls (a), (b)
West of 106°W longitude	April 1 to April 30	Recorded bird calls (a), (b)

(a) "Recorded bird calls" refers to bird calls of a species referred to in the heading of column 2.

(b) Snow Goose call recordings may be used but, if used with decoys, the decoys may only represent white or blue phase Snow Geese, or any combination of them.

### Cranes

Where the Director General of the Canadian Wildlife Service or the Chief Provincial Game Officer of Saskatchewan is of the opinion that Whooping Cranes may be in the Saskatchewan Sandhill Crane Management Area during the open season for Sandhill Cranes in that area, such officer may prohibit the hunting of Sandhill Cranes in that area, and thereafter no person shall hunt or kill Sandhill Cranes in that area in that year.

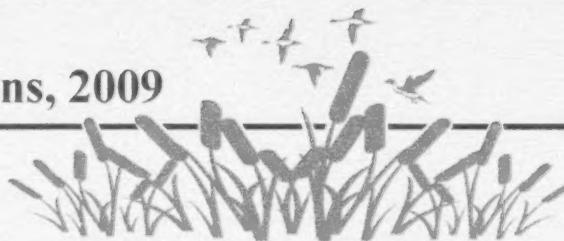
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# Migratory Birds Hunting Regulations, 2009

## Summary



Watch for this loon on blue signs marking National Wildlife Areas and Migratory Bird Sanctuaries.



The information presented here is a summary of the law. For complete information on fines, general prohibitions, permitted hunting methods and equipment, the need to retrieve birds, restrictions on using bait, description of hunting zones, and other restrictions on hunting, contact:

### Wildlife Enforcement Coordinator

Environment Canada

4999-98 Avenue

Edmonton, Alberta T6B 2X3

Tel: 780-951-8891

[www.mb.ec.gc.ca/nature/migratorybirds/dc00s06.en.html](http://www.mb.ec.gc.ca/nature/migratorybirds/dc00s06.en.html)

Check your permit and provincial regulations for additional restrictions.

Non-toxic shot must be used to hunt migratory birds in **all** areas of Canada. Within National Wildlife Areas, the possession of lead shot is prohibited for all hunting, including the hunting of migratory birds and upland game birds. Hunters should consult provincial or territorial regulations for additional restrictions.

**Waterfowler Heritage Days:** Waterfowler Heritage Days provide young hunters under the age of majority with the opportunity to practice hunting skills, learn about wildlife conservation, and reinforce safety training in a structured, supervised environment before the season opens for other hunters. Licensed adult hunters who serve as mentors have an opportunity to pass on their considerable skills and knowledge by offering guidance and advice to younger hunters. The following rules are in effect:

- to participate, young hunters under the age of majority do not require the federal Migratory Game Bird Hunting Permit;
- young participants must comply with all existing safety and licensing requirements found in the *Firearms Act* and provincial hunting regulations;
- participants must be accompanied by a licensed mentor over the age of majority; and
- mentors may not hunt or carry a firearm, and may accompany no more than two young hunters.

Check your permit and provincial regulations for additional restrictions.

### HELPFUL TIP

Canadians may be exposed to avian-borne viruses when hunting or handling migratory birds and other wild game. Environment Canada recommends the following website, maintained by the Public Health Agency of Canada, for information about minimizing the risk of exposure: [www.phac-aspc.gc.ca/id-mi/index.html](http://www.phac-aspc.gc.ca/id-mi/index.html)

### OPEN SEASONS IN ALBERTA

Area	Ducks, Coots and Snipe	White Geese (Snow and Ross's Geese)	Dark geese (Canada and White-fronted geese)	Waterfowler Heritage Days	Falconry Season for Ducks, Coots, and Snipe
Zones* 1(a), 2, 3, 4, and 8	Sept. 1 to Dec. 16	Sept. 1 to Dec. 16(b)	Sept. 1 to Dec. 16		Sept. 1 to Dec. 16
Zones* 5, 6, and 7	Sept. 8 to Dec. 21	Sept. 8 to Dec. 21(b)	Sept. 8 to Dec. 21	Sept. 5 to Sept. 6	Sept. 8 to Dec. 21

\* "Zone No. 1" means that part of Alberta included in Provincial Wildlife Management Units (PWMUs) 501 to 506, 509 to 512, 514 to 519, 520 to 532, and 841.

"Zone No. 2" means that part of Alberta included in PWMUs 344, 347, 349 to 360, 520 to 528, 534 to 537, 539 to 542, and 544.

"Zone No. 3" means that part of Alberta included in PWMUs 200, 202 to 204, 230, 232, 234, 236, 238, 240, 252, 254, 256, 258, 260, and 500.

"Zone No. 4" means that part of Alberta included in PWMUs 206, 208, 216, 220 to 222, 224, 226, 228, 242, 244, 246, 248, 250, 320, 322, 324, 326, 328, 330, 332, 334, 336 to 340, 342, 346, 348, 429, 507, 508, and 936.

"Zone No. 5" means that part of Alberta included in PWMUs 151, 160, 162 to 164, and 166.

"Zone No. 6" means that part of Alberta included in PWMUs 104, 106, 108, 110, 112, 128, 130, 132, 134, 136, 138, 140, 142, 152, 156, 158, 210, 212, 214, 300, 302 to 306, 308, 310, 312, and 314.

"Zone No. 7" means that part of Alberta included in PWMUs 102, 116, 118, 119, 124, 144, 148, and 150.

"Zone No. 8" means that part of Alberta included in PWMUs 316, 318, 400, 402, 404, 406, 408, 410, 412, 414, 416 to 418, 420, 422, 426, 428, 430, 432, 434, 436 to 442, 444 to 446.

(a) Except that Alberta Wildlife Management Unit 841 in Zone 1 has an opening date of September 15.

(b) Snow Goose call recordings may be used but, if used with decoys, the decoys may only represent white or blue phase Snow Geese, or any combination of them.

## BAG AND POSSESSION LIMITS IN ALBERTA

Limits	Ducks	White geese (Snow and Ross's geese)	Dark geese (Canada and White-fronted geese)	Coots	Snipe
Daily bags	8(a)	20	8(c)	10	10
Possession	16(b)	60	16(d)	20	20

(a) Not more than four may be Northern Pintails.

(b) Not more than eight may be Northern Pintails.

(c) For Canadian residents, not more than five may be White-fronted Geese. For non-residents of Canada, not more than three may be White-fronted Geese.

(d) For Canadian residents, not more than 10 may be White-fronted Geese. For non-residents of Canada, not more than six may be White-fronted Geese.

# Canada

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# Migratory Birds Hunting Regulations, 2009

## Summary



Watch for this loon on  
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The information presented here is a summary of the law. For complete information on fines, general prohibitions, permitted hunting methods and equipment, the need to retrieve birds, restrictions on using bait, description of hunting districts, and other restrictions on hunting, contact:

Environment Canada  
Canadian Wildlife Service  
Pacific Wildlife Research Centre  
R.R. 1, 5421 Robertson Road  
Delta, British Columbia V4K 3N2  
Tel.: 604-940-4710  
[www.pyrec.gc.ca/en/index.shtml](http://www.pyrec.gc.ca/en/index.shtml)

### Hunting Districts



1. Provincial Management Units (PMU) 1-1 to 1-15
2. PMU 2-2 to 2-19
3. PMU 3-12 to 3-20 and 3-26 to 3-44
4. PMU 4-1 to 4-9 and 4-14 to 4-40
5. PMU 5-1 to 5-15
6. PMU 6-1 to 6-30
7. PMU 7-2 to 7-58
8. PMU 8-1 to 8-15 and 8-21 to 8-26

Check your permit and provincial regulations for additional restrictions.

Non-toxic shot must be used in **all** areas of Canada to hunt migratory game birds, except for Band-tailed Pigeons and Mourning Doves. Within National Wildlife Areas, the possession of lead shot is prohibited for all hunting, including the hunting of migratory birds and upland game birds. Hunters should consult provincial or territorial regulations for additional restrictions.

For those birds still hunted with lead shot, remove the lead shot before cooking whenever possible in order to reduce your exposure to contaminants. As well, remove the skin and fat from fish-eating birds before cooking them.

Waterfowl Heritage Days provide young hunters under the age of majority with the opportunity to practice hunting and outdoor skills, learn about wildlife conservation, and reinforce safety training in a structured, supervised environment before the season opens for other hunters. Licensed adult hunters who serve as mentors have an opportunity to pass on their considerable skills and knowledge by offering guidance and advice to younger hunters. The following rules are in effect:

- to participate, young hunters under the age of majority do not require the federal Migratory Game Bird Hunting Permit;
- young participants must comply with all existing safety and licensing requirements found in the *Firearms Act* and provincial hunting regulations;
- participants must be accompanied by a licensed mentor over the age of majority; and
- mentors may not hunt or carry a firearm, and may accompany no more than two young hunters.

Check your permit and provincial regulations for additional restrictions.

### HELPFUL TIP

Canadians may be exposed to avian-borne viruses when hunting or handling migratory birds and other wild game. Environment Canada recommends the following website, maintained by the Public Health Agency of Canada, for information about minimizing the risk of exposure:  
[www.phac-aspc.gc.ca/id-mi/index.html](http://www.phac-aspc.gc.ca/id-mi/index.html)

## OPEN SEASONS IN BRITISH COLUMBIA

District	Ducks and geese WATERFOWL HERITAGE DAYS	Ducks, coots, and snipe	Snow and Ross's geese	Other geese	Brant	Band-tailed Pigeons	Mourning Doves
No. 1	Oct. 3 and 4	Oct. 10 to Jan. 22	Oct. 10 to Jan. 22	Oct. 10 to Jan. 22(a) Sept. 5 to 13(b)(c) Oct. 10 to Nov. 22 (b)(c) Dec. 19 to Jan. 10(b)(c) Feb. 10 to March 10(b)(c)	No open season	Sept. 15 to Sept. 30	No open season
No. 2	Sept. 5 and 6(e)(f) and Oct. 3 and 4(d)	Oct. 10 to Jan. 22(c)(g) Sept. 10 to Dec. 23(e)	Oct. 10 to Jan. 3(h) Feb. 20 to March 10(h)	Oct. 10 to Jan. 22(i) Sept. 5 to Sept. 13(c)(j) Oct. 10 to Nov. 22(c)(f) Dec. 19 to Jan. 10(c)(f) Feb. 10 to March 10(c)(f) Sept. 10 to Dec. 23(e)(k)	March 1 to March 10(c)(l)	Sept. 15 to Sept. 30(m)	No open season
No. 3	Sept. 5 and 6	Sept. 10 to Dec. 23	Sept. 10 to Dec. 23	Sept. 10 to Dec. 23(n) Sept. 10 to Sept. 20(o) Oct. 1 to Dec. 23(o) March 1 to March 10(o)	No open season	Sept. 15 to Sept. 30(p)	Sept 1. to Sept. 30
No. 4	Sept. 5 and 6	Sept. 10 to Dec. 23	Sept. 10 to Dec. 23	Sept. 10 to Dec. 23	No open season	No open season	Sept 1. to Sept. 30
No. 5	Sept. 12 and 13	Sept. 15 to Dec. 25	Sept. 15 to Dec. 25	Sept. 15 to Dec. 25	No open season	No open season	No open season
No. 6	Sept. 5 and 6(q)(r)	Sept. 1 to 4 and Sept. 7 to Nov. 30(q)	Sept. 1 to 4 and Sept. 7 to Nov. 30(q)	Sept. 1 to 4 and Sept. 7 to Nov. 30(q)	No open season	No open season	No open season
		Oct. 1 to Jan. 13(r)	Oct. 1 to Jan. 13(r)	Oct. 1 to Jan. 13(r)			
No. 7	N/A	Sept. 1 to Nov. 30	Sept. 1 to Nov. 30	Sept. 1 to Nov. 30	No open season	No open season	No open season
No. 8	Sept. 5 and 6	Sept. 12 to Dec. 25	Sept. 12 to Dec. 25	Sept. 12 to Dec. 25(s) Sept. 20 to Nov. 28(k) Dec. 20 to Jan. 5(k) Feb. 21 to March 10(k)	No open season	No open season	Sept 1. to Sept. 30

(a) Provincial Management Units 1-3, and 1-8 to 1-15 inclusive, and for Canada Geese and Cackling Geese only.

(b) Provincial Management Units 1-1, 1-2, and 1-4 to 1-7 inclusive, and for Canada Geese and Cackling Geese only.

(c) See provincial regulations for local restrictions.

(d) Provincial Management Units 2-2 to 2-10 inclusive, and 2-12 to 2-19 inclusive for Ducks, Canada Geese, and Cackling Geese only, and additionally, in Provincial Management Units 2-4 and 2-5 only, for Snow Geese and Ross's Geese.

(e) Provincial Management Units 2-11 only.

(f) For Ducks, Canada Geese, and Cackling Geese only.

(g) Provincial Management Units 2-2 to 2-10 inclusive, and 2-12 to 2-19 inclusive.

(h) Provincial Management Units 2-4 and 2-5 only.

(i) Provincial Management Units 2-5 to 2-7 inclusive, 2-9, 2-10, and 2-12 to 2-17 inclusive only, and for Canada Geese and Cackling Geese only.

(j) Provincial Management Units 2-2 to 2-4 inclusive, 2-8, 2-18, and 2-19 only, and for Canada Geese and Cackling Geese only.

(k) For Canada Geese and Cackling Geese only.

(l) Provincial Management Unit 2-4 only.

(m) Provincial Management Units 2-2 to 2-19 inclusive.

(n) Provincial Management Units 3-12 to 3-18 inclusive, 3-30 to 3-35 inclusive, and 3-38 to 3-44 inclusive, for White-fronted, Canada, and Cackling geese, and Provincial Management Units 3-19, 3-20, 3-26 to 3-29 inclusive, 3-36, and 3-37 for White-fronted Geese only.

(o) Provincial Management Units 3-19, 3-20, 3-26 to 3-29 inclusive, 3-36, and 3-37, for Canada Geese and Cackling Geese only.

(p) Provincial Management Units 3-13 to 3-17 inclusive.

(q) Provincial Management Units 6-1, 6-2, 6-4 to 6-10 inclusive, and 6-15 to 6-30 inclusive only.

(r) Provincial Management Units 6-3 and 6-11 to 6-14 inclusive only.

(s) For White-fronted Geese only.

## BAG AND POSSESSION LIMITS IN BRITISH COLUMBIA

Limits	Ducks	Geese	Coots	Snipe	Band-tailed Pigeons	Mourning Doves
Daily bags	8(a)(c)(e)(k)	5(g)(i), 10(m)	10	10	5	5
Possession	16(b)(d)(f)(l)	10(h)(j), 20(m)	20	20	10	10

(a) Not more than four may be Northern Pintails.

(b) Not more than eight may be Northern Pintails.

(c) Not more than four may be Canvasbacks.

(d) Not more than eight may be Canvasbacks.

(e) Not more than two may be goldeneyes.

(f) Not more than four may be goldeneyes.

(g) Not more than two may be Brant in Provincial Management Unit 2-4.

(h) Not more than four may be Brant in Provincial Management Unit 2-4.

(i) In Provincial Management Units 2-2 to 2-4 inclusive, 2-8, 2-18, and 2-19 only, a total of five Canada Geese or Cackling Geese, or any combination of these, can be taken daily.

(j) In Provincial Management Units 2-2 to 2-4 inclusive, 2-8, 2-18, and 2-19 only, a total of 10 Canada Geese or Cackling Geese, or any combination of these, may be had in possession.

(k) Not more than two may be Harlequin Ducks.

(l) Not more than four may be Harlequin Ducks.

(m) For Snow Geese only and in Provincial Management Unit 2-4 only.

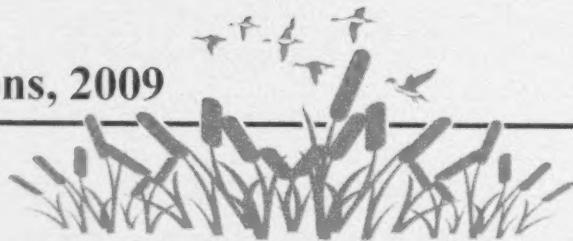
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# Migratory Birds Hunting Regulations, 2009

## Summary



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The information presented here is a summary of the law. For complete information on fines, general prohibitions, permitted hunting methods and equipment, the need to retrieve birds, restrictions on using bait, description of hunting areas, and other restrictions on hunting, contact:

**Wildlife Enforcement Coordinator**  
Environment Canada  
5204 50th Avenue, Suite 301  
Yellowknife, Northwest Territories X1A 1E2  
Tel.: 867-669-4730  
[www.mbb.ec.gc.ca/nature/migratorybirds/dc00s06.en.html](http://www.mbb.ec.gc.ca/nature/migratorybirds/dc00s06.en.html)

Check your permit and territorial regulations for additional restrictions.

Non-toxic shot must be used to hunt migratory birds in **all** areas of Canada. Within National Wildlife Areas, the possession of lead shot is prohibited for all hunting, including the hunting of migratory birds and upland game birds. Hunters should consult provincial or territorial regulations for additional restrictions.

For those birds still hunted with lead shot, remove the lead shot before cooking whenever possible in order to reduce your exposure to contaminants. As well, remove the skin and fat from fish-eating birds before cooking them.

### NOTE

Hunters interested in participating in a possible conservation harvest of Snow Geese next spring should keep their 2009 federal permits.

### HELPFUL TIP

Canadians may be exposed to avian-borne viruses when hunting or handling migratory birds and other wild game. Environment Canada recommends the following website, maintained by the Public Health Agency of Canada, for information about minimizing the risk of exposure:  
[www.phac-aspc.gc.ca/id-mi/index.html](http://www.phac-aspc.gc.ca/id-mi/index.html)

### OPEN SEASONS IN NUNAVUT

Area	Ducks, geese, coots, and snipe	
Throughout Nunavut	September 1 to December 10(a)	

(a) Snow Goose call recordings may be used but, if used with decoys, the decoys may only represent white or blue phase Snow Geese, or any combination of them.

### MEASURES IN NUNAVUT CONCERNING OVERABUNDANT SPECIES

Item	Column 1 Area	Column 2 Period during which Snow Geese may be killed	Column 3 Additional hunting method or equipment
1	Throughout Nunavut	May 1 to June 7	Recorded bird calls (a)(b)
2	Throughout Nunavut	August 15 to August 31	Recorded bird calls (a)(b)

(a) "Recorded bird calls" refers to bird calls of a species referred to in the heading of column 2.

(b) Snow Goose call recordings may be used but, if used with decoys, the decoys may only represent white or blue phase Snow Geese, or any combination of them.

## BAG AND POSSESSION LIMITS IN NUNAVUT

Limits	Ducks RESIDENTS OF CANADA	Ducks NON-RESIDENTS OF CANADA	Geese RESIDENTS OF CANADA	Geese NON-RESIDENTS OF CANADA	Coots RESIDENTS OF CANADA AND NON-RESIDENTS OF CANADA	Snipe RESIDENTS OF CANADA	Snipe NON-RESIDENTS OF CANADA
Daily bags	25(c)(g)	8(c)(g)	15(b)(e)(i)	5(a)(b)(e)(i)	25	10	10
Possession	No limit(d)(h)	16(d)(h)	No limit(b)(f)	10(a)(b)(f)(j)	No limit	No limit	20

- (a) Except that non-residents may not take more than two White-fronted Geese daily and may not possess more than four
- (b) Except that on Akimiski Island and in its adjacent waters in James Bay, not more than a total of three Canada Geese or Cackling Geese, or any combination of them, may be taken daily, and not more than a total of 24 Canada Geese or Cackling Geese, or any combination of them, may be possessed
- (c) Except that on Akimiski Island and in its adjacent waters in James Bay, the daily bag limit for ducks is six, with not more than two American Black Ducks and one Barrow's Goldeneye
- (d) Except that on Akimiski Island and in its adjacent waters in James Bay, the possession limit for ducks is 12, with not more than four American Black Ducks and two Barrow's Goldeneye
- (e) Except that on the islands in James Bay east of 80°15'W longitude and south of 55°N latitude, or in their surrounding waters, the daily bag limit is 20 Snow Geese, and a total of five other geese.
- (f) Except that on the islands in James Bay east of 80°15'W longitude and south of 55°N latitude, or in their surrounding waters, the possession limit is 60 Snow Geese, and a total of 20 other geese
- (g) Except that on the islands in James Bay east of 80°15'W longitude and south of 55°N latitude, or in their surrounding waters, the daily bag limit for ducks is six, with not more than four American Black Ducks, one Barrow's Goldeneye and one Blue-winged Teal
- (h) Except that on the islands in James Bay east of 80°15'W longitude and south of 55°N latitude, or in their surrounding waters, the possession limit for ducks is 12, with not more than eight American Black Ducks, two Barrow's Goldeneye and two Blue-winged Teal
- (i) Except that the daily bag limit for Snow Geese is 20
- (j) Except that the possession limit for Snow Geese by non-residents is 80.

### NOTE

No person shall hunt earlier than one half-hour before sunrise or later than one half-hour after sunset, except north of the 60th parallel, where no person shall hunt earlier than one hour before sunrise or later than one hour after sunset.

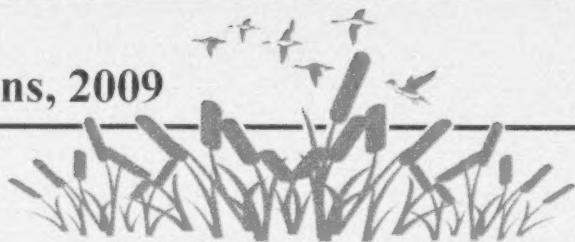
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**Wildlife Enforcement Coordinator**  
Environment Canada  
5204 50th Avenue, Suite 301  
Yellowknife, Northwest Territories X1A 1E2  
Tel.: 867-669-4730  
[www.mbb.ec.gc.ca/nature/migratorybirds/dc00s06.en.html](http://www.mbb.ec.gc.ca/nature/migratorybirds/dc00s06.en.html)

Check your permit and territorial regulations for additional restrictions.

Non-toxic shot must be used to hunt migratory birds in **all** areas of Canada. Within National Wildlife Areas, the possession of lead shot is prohibited for all hunting, including the hunting of migratory birds and upland game birds. Hunters should consult provincial or territorial regulations for additional restrictions.

For those birds still hunted with lead shot, remove the lead shot before cooking whenever possible in order to reduce your exposure to contaminants. As well, remove the skin and fat from fish-eating birds before cooking them.

### HELPFUL TIP

Canadians may be exposed to avian-borne viruses when hunting or handling migratory birds and other wild game. Environment Canada recommends the following website, maintained by the Public Health Agency of Canada, for information about minimizing the risk of exposure:  
[www.phac-aspc.gc.ca/id-mi/index.html](http://www.phac-aspc.gc.ca/id-mi/index.html)

### OPEN SEASONS IN THE NORTHWEST TERRITORIES

Area	Ducks, geese, coots, and snipe						
Throughout the Northwest Territories	September 1 to December 10						

### BAG AND POSSESSION LIMITS IN THE NORTHWEST TERRITORIES

Limits	Ducks RESIDENTS OF CANADA	Ducks NON-RESIDENTS OF CANADA	Geese RESIDENTS OF CANADA	Geese NON-RESIDENTS OF CANADA	Coots RESIDENTS OF CANADA AND NON-RESIDENTS OF CANADA	Snipe RESIDENTS OF CANADA	Snipe NON-RESIDENTS OF CANADA
Daily bags	25	8	15	5(a)	25	10	10
Possession	No limit	16	No limit	10(a)	No limit	No limit	20

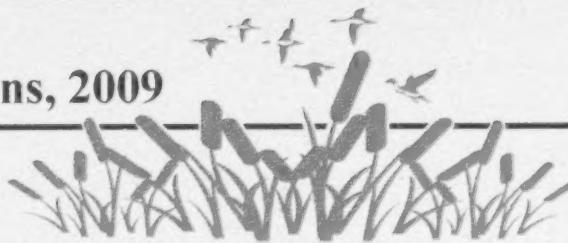
(a) Except that non-residents may not take more than two White-fronted Geese daily and may not possess more than four.

### NOTE

No person shall hunt earlier than one hour before sunrise or later than one hour after sunset.

# Migratory Birds Hunting Regulations, 2009

## Summary



Watch for this loon on  
blue signs marking  
National Wildlife Areas  
and Migratory Bird Sanctuaries.



The information presented here is a summary of the law. For complete information on fines, general prohibitions, permitted hunting methods and equipment, the need to retrieve birds, restrictions on using bait, description of hunting areas, and other restrictions on hunting, contact:

**Enforcement Coordinator**  
**Environment Canada**  
**91782 Alaska Highway**  
**Whitehorse, Yukon Y1A 5B7**  
**Tel: 867-667-4597**  
[www.cws-scf.ec.gc.ca/theme.cfm?lang=e&category=6](http://www.cws-scf.ec.gc.ca/theme.cfm?lang=e&category=6)

Check your permit and territorial regulations for additional restrictions.

Non-toxic shot must be used in **all** areas of Canada to hunt migratory game birds, except for woodcock, Band-tailed Pigeons, and Mourning Doves. Within National Wildlife Areas, the possession of lead shot is prohibited for all hunting, including the hunting of migratory birds and upland game birds. Hunters should consult provincial or territorial regulations for additional restrictions.

For those birds still hunted with lead shot, remove the lead shot before cooking whenever possible in order to reduce your exposure to contaminants. As well, remove the skin and fat from fish-eating birds before cooking them.

### HELPFUL TIP

Canadians may be exposed to avian-borne viruses when hunting or handling migratory birds and other wild game. Environment Canada recommends the following website, maintained by the Public Health Agency of Canada, for information about minimizing the risk of exposure:  
[www.phac-aspc.gc.ca/id-mi/index.html](http://www.phac-aspc.gc.ca/id-mi/index.html)

### Hunting Areas

<b>Northern Yukon Territory:</b> All that portion of the Yukon Territory lying north of latitude 66°
<b>Central Yukon Territory:</b> All that portion of the Yukon Territory lying between latitude 62° and 66°
<b>Southern Yukon Territory:</b> All that portion of the Yukon Territory lying south of latitude 62°

### OPEN SEASONS IN THE YUKON TERRITORY

Area	Ducks	Geese	Sandhill Cranes	Rails and coots	Snipe
Northern Yukon Territory	Aug. 15 to Oct. 31 for residents of the Yukon Territory; Sept. 1 to Oct. 31 for non-residents of the Yukon Territory	Aug. 15 to Oct. 31 for residents of the Yukon Territory; Sept. 1 to Oct. 31 for non-residents of the Yukon Territory	No open season	Aug. 15 to Oct. 31 for residents of the Yukon Territory; Sept. 1 to Oct. 31 for non-residents of the Yukon Territory	Aug. 15 to Oct. 31 for residents of the Yukon Territory; Sept. 1 to Oct. 31 for non-residents of the Yukon Territory
Central Yukon Territory	Aug. 15 to Oct. 31 for residents of the Yukon Territory; Sept. 1 to Oct. 31 for non-residents of the Yukon Territory	Aug. 15 to Oct. 31 for residents of the Yukon Territory; Sept. 1 to Oct. 31 for non-residents of the Yukon Territory	Aug. 15 to Oct. 31 for residents of the Yukon Territory; Sept. 1 to Oct. 31 for non-residents of the Yukon Territory	Aug. 15 to Oct. 31 for residents of the Yukon Territory; Sept. 1 to Oct. 31 for non-residents of the Yukon Territory	Aug. 15 to Oct. 31 for residents of the Yukon Territory; Sept. 1 to Oct. 31 for non-residents of the Yukon Territory
Southern Yukon Territory	Sept. 1 to Oct. 31	Sept. 1 to Oct. 31	Sept. 1 to Oct. 31	No open season	Sept. 1 to Oct. 31

## BAG AND POSSESSION LIMITS IN THE YUKON TERRITORY

Limits	Ducks	Geese	Sandhill Cranes	Rails and coots	Snipe
Daily bags	8(a)	5(b)	2	0(c)	10
Possession	24(a)	15(b)	4	0(c)	30(d)

(a) Except that in the Northern Yukon Territory 17 additional ducks may be taken per day, with no possession limit.

(b) Except that in the Northern Yukon Territory 10 additional geese may be taken per day, with no possession limit.

(c) Except that in the Northern Yukon Territory 25 rails and coots may be taken per day, with no possession limit.

(d) Except that in the Northern Yukon Territory there is no possession limit.

### NOTE

No person shall hunt earlier than one hour before sunrise or later than one hour after sunset.

Canada

REPORT YOUR MIGRATORY BIRD BANDS:  
CALL 1-800-327-BAND (2263) OR GO TO: [WWW.REPORTBAND.GOV](http://WWW.REPORTBAND.GOV)



**www.ec.gc.ca**

Additional information can be obtained at:

Environment Canada  
Inquiry Centre  
351 St. Joseph Boulevard  
Place Vincent Massey, 8th Floor  
Gatineau, Quebec K1A 0H3  
Telephone: 1-800-668-6767 (in Canada only) or 819-997-2800  
Fax: 819-994-1412  
TTY: 819-994-0736  
Email: [enviroinfo@ec.gc.ca](mailto:enviroinfo@ec.gc.ca)